
(b)(3)

From: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]
Sent: (b)(6) Tuesday, November 27, 2018 2:17 PM
To: [redacted] DNI-Media; [redacted] (b)(3) [redacted] DNI-OLA-FO; [redacted] (b)(3)
Cc: (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: ***FLAG** NYTimes Running Today --- RE: Daily Beast Congressional Reporter Tweet FYSA

Thank you [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
[redacted] (b)(6)

All—

Just got a call from Julian Barnes at the New York Times regarding questions about this briefing (mentioned in Tweet below). NYTimes is running a story tonight about Yemen and it will mention this briefing as well. Here are the points Julian was looking into that may find its way into this story:

- Members on hill complaining that DCIA Haspel and DNI Coats were not present in the briefing—what was the reason for this?
- Did the White House block Haspel from appearing at this briefing?
- NYTimes is planning to say something along the lines of, Haspel shouldn't be blamed due to her part in the Khashoggi matter--it's not fair to blame her but why wasn't DNI Coats conducting the briefing?
- What's the reasoning behind DoD and State only present?

Best,
Kellie

Kellie Wade

Media Relations Officer, *Strategic Communications*
Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI)

(office) [redacted] (b)(3) (mobile) [redacted] (b)(3) [redacted]
[redacted] (b)(3) [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
[redacted] (b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 12:14 PM
To: DNI-Media ; [redacted] (b)(3)
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Daily Beast Congressional Reporter Tweet FYSA

(b)(3) CIAAct



Andrew Desiderio ●
@desiderioDC

A Senate aide points out to me that tomorrow will be the first time *ever* that an all-senators briefing on national security matters excludes any member of the intelligence community.

Sen. Corker has asked the WH to send Gina Haspel. As of now, it'll only be Mattis & Pompeo.

10:06am · 27 Nov 2018 · TweetDeck

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

Central Intelligence Agency

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 11:19 PM
To: [redacted] (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: For Sonam re: Recent Story

Hi Sonam,

I saw your story (https://www.businessinsider.sg/trump-accused-of-cover-up-after-barring-haspel-from-briefing-senate-khashoggi-killing-2018-11/amp/?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter&twitter_impression=true) and wasn't aware that we missed an inquiry from you or co-author. Please see statement below.

Best,
Tim

Attributable to CIA Press Secretary Timothy Barrett:

“While Director Haspel did not attend today’s Yemen policy briefing, the Agency has already briefed the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and Congressional leadership on the totality of the compartmented, classified intelligence and will continue to provide updates on this important matter to policymakers and Congress. The notion that anyone told Director Haspel not to attend today's briefing is false.”

Timothy L. Barrett
Press Secretary, CIA
(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) [redacted]
From:
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2018 11:12 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: FW: another saudi murder ?

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)
Forwarding to the wider distro since this inquiry falls within [redacted] realm.

From: Hosenball, Mark J. (Reuters)
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2018 10:57 AM (b)(3) CIAAct
To: [redacted] (b)(6)
Subject: another saudi murder ?

We are wondering if the murder in Istanbul of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi in any way has piqued interest in whether Saudi activist Ahmad Mola Nisi, who was murdered in Den Haag, Netherlands, last November, might have also been murdered by Saudi operatives. Is this something you all have heard about ? If so is there evidence or information which suggests a Saudi connection to the murder ? guidance most welcome. Many thanks indeed. All very best mh

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 6:05 PM
To: 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC'
Subject: FW: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

Hi Lauren, (b)(3) CIAAct

Do you have any availability to give me a quick call at [redacted]? I just tried you, but I missed you.

Thanks, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 6:01 PM
To: 'Greenan, Robert J' ; 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' ; Palladino, Robert J
Cc: Raines, Robert A. ; Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC ; Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC ; Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC ; Kissel, Mary E (S)
Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

Hi Robert,

Thank you for including Mary. I don't have any further updates since you and I spoke; we're still expecting the story to publish this evening. I'll keep everyone on this chain apprised.

(b)(3) CIAAct
Thanks again, (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

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(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Greenan, Robert J
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 5:37 PM
To: [redacted] ; 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' ; Palladino, Robert J
Cc: Raines, Robert A. ; Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC ; Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC ; Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC ; Kissel, Mary E (S)
Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

(b)(6)

[redacted] I am adding in Mary Kissel to this chain. Mary is a Senior Advisor for Comms to the Secretary. I briefed her on the story. [redacted] (b)(5) [redacted] Please keep her in the loop, too, as the story comes out.

Thank you, Robert

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]

Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 1:48 PM

To: 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' ; Palladino, Robert J ; Greenan, Robert J

Cc: Raines, Robert A. ; Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC ; Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC ; Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC

Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

Thank you, Lauren, for your email.

Robert and Robert: Please feel free to give me a call to discuss further.

(b)(3) CIAAct

Thanks again, [redacted] (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC [redacted] (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 1:24 PM

To: [redacted] @ucia.gov>; Palladino, Robert J <PalladinoRJ@state.gov>; GreenanRJ@state.gov

Cc: Raines, Robert A. EOP/NSC [redacted] (b)(6) Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC [redacted] (b)(6)

Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC [redacted] (b)(6) Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC

(b)(6)

Subject: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

(b)(3) CIAAct

Hi Robert and Robert, (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

Please connect with [redacted] at CIA. cc'd. ASAP on a story that's about to drop on Khashoggi. Her number is [redacted]

(b)(5)

Thank you!

Lauren

Lauren Ehram

Director for Strategic Communications

Office of Strategic Communications

White House National Security Council

(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 6:06 PM
To: 'Greenan, Robert J'
Subject: FW: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

Hi Robert,

Do you have any availability to give me a quick call? I'm at [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct

Thanks, [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 6:01 PM
To: 'Greenan, Robert J' ; 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' ; Palladino, Robert J
Cc: Raines, Robert A. ; Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC ; Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC ; Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC ; Kissel, Mary E (S)
Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

Hi Robert,

Thank you for including Mary. I don't have any further updates since you and I spoke; we're still expecting the story to publish this evening. I'll keep everyone on this chain apprised.

Thanks again, [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

[redacted]
CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Greenan, Robert J
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 5:37 PM
To: [redacted] 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' ; Palladino, Robert J
Cc: Raines, Robert A. ; Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC ; Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC ; Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC ; Kissel, Mary E (S)
Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6) [redacted] I am adding in Mary Kissel to this chain. Mary is a Senior Advisor for Comms to the Secretary. I briefed her on the story. [redacted] (b)(5) [redacted] Please keep her in the loop, too, as the story comes out.

Thank you, Robert

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From:

Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 1:48 PM

To: 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' ; Palladino, Robert J ; Greenan, Robert J

Cc: Raines, Robert A. ; Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC ; Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC ; Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC

Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

Thank you, Lauren, for your email.

Robert and Robert: Please feel free to give me a call to discuss further.

Thanks again, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

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(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 1:24 PM

To: (b)(6)@ucia.gov; Palladino, Robert J <PalladinoRJ@state.gov>; GreenanRJ@state.gov

Cc: Raines, Robert A. EOP/NSC (b)(6) Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC (b)(6)

Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC (b)(6) Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC

(b)(6)

Subject: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Hi Robert and Robert,

Please connect with (b)(6) at CIA, cc'd, ASAP on a story that's about to drop on Khashoggi. Her number is (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(5)

Thank you!
Lauren

Lauren Ehram
Director for Strategic Communications
Office of Strategic Communications
White House National Security Council
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 6:01 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]
Subject: FW: Looking to connect with Julian

(b)(6)
From: Julian Borger [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 5:58 PM
To: [redacted]@ucia.gov
Subject: Re: Looking to connect with Julian (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

here it is

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/27/jamal-khashoggi-murder-senate-briefing-saudi-arabia-gina-haspel-white-house>

Julian Borger

world affairs editor

Guardian News & Media

M: [redacted] (b)(6)
E: [redacted] (b)(6)

twitter:
@julianborger<https://twitter.com/julianborger?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor>

Public key<<https://pgp.theguardian.com/PublicKeys/Julian%20Borger.pub.txt>>

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[https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/jRtQ9ELB_hi5uRaXEeyC3DNspjh2s1HDO9RY1DV_QfXxDPPAhVI9V2kqju3z8qm8CysQlNBny9pOIR01XOWY-qpDFJ17kXy5TY07tnv3PtWzoQT7qgZ2J9GjX2KH-dzbRKItuvNI]

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(b)(3) CIAAct

On Tue, 27 Nov 2018 at 17:49, (b)(6)@ucia.gov>> wrote:
Thanks kindly

From: Julian Borger (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 5:48 PM
To: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>> (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Re: Looking to connect with Julian (b)(6)

ok. have made the change, and waiting for them to go up. Should be very soon

Julian Borger

world affairs editor

Guardian News & Media

M: (b)(6)
E: (b)(6)

twitter:

@julianborger<https://twitter.com/julianborger?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor>

Public key<<https://pgp.theguardian.com/PublicKeys/Julian%20Borger.pub.txt>>

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[https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/jRtQ9ELB_hi5uRaXEeyC3DNSpjh2s1HDO9RY1DV_QfXxDPPAhVI9V2kqju3z8qm8CysQlnBny9pOIR01XOWY-qpDFJ17kXy5TY07tnv3PtWzoQT7qgZ2J9GjX2KH-dzbRKItuvNI]

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(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

On Tue, 27 Nov 2018 at 17:45, [redacted]@ucia.gov>> wrote:
Would you pls send me a nudge once it's updated? It was a very brief reply to a question in today's briefing (clipping below from CNN)

Bolton denied reports that the White House is blocking Haspel from briefing senators.
"Certainly not," Bolton said when asked about the reports.

From: Julian Borger [redacted] (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 5:23 PM
To: [redacted]@ucia.gov>>
Subject: Re: Looking to connect with Julian (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)
Thanks for getting in contact.

Julian Borger

world affairs editor

Guardian News & Media

M: [redacted] (b)(6)
E: [redacted] (b)(6)

twitter:
@julianborger<https://twitter.com/julianborger?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor>

Public key<<https://pgp.theguardian.com/PublicKeys/Julian%20Borger.pub.txt>>

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[https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/jRtQ9ELB_hi5uRaXEeyC3DNSpjh2s1HDO9RY1DV_QfXxDPPAhVI9V2kqju3z8qm8CysQInBny9pOIR01XOWY-qpDFJ17kXy5TY07tnv3PtWzoQT7qgZ2J9GjX2KH-dzbRKItuvNI]

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(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

On Tue, 27 Nov 2018 at 17:19, [redacted]@ucia.gov>> wrote:
Great chatting with you, Julian. Thanks for updating to reflect National Security Advisor Bolton's press briefing comments on the matter.

Best,
[redacted]
(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Central Intelligence Agency

[redacted]
(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Julian Borger [redacted] (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 5:12 PM
To: [redacted]@ucia.gov>>
Subject: Re: Looking to connect with Julian (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Hello. This is me

[redacted] (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

On Tue, Nov 27, 2018 at 5:02 PM [redacted]@ucia.gov>> wrote:
Hello, Julian – I'm guessing at your email address and looking to connect. Best, [redacted]

(b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) (b)(6)

Central Intelligence Agency

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

--

Julian Borger

world affairs editor

Guardian News & Media

M: (b)(6)

E: (b)(6)

twitter:

@julianborger<https://twitter.com/julianborger?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor>

Public key<<https://pgp.theguardian.com/PublicKeys/Julian%20Borger.pub.txt>>

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[https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/jRtQ9ELB_hi5uRaXEeyC3DNSpjh2s1HDO9RY1DV_QfXxDPPAhVI9V2kqu3z8qm8CysQlnBny9pOIR01XOWY-qpDFJ17kXy5TY07tnv3PtWzoQT7qgZ2J9GjX2KH-dzbRKItuvNI]

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(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: (b)(3) CIAAct Tuesday, November 27, 2018 8:29 PM
To: (b)(6) [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, Director of the NEC Larry Kudlow, and NSC Advisor John Bolton, 11/27/2018, #104

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: "White House Press Office" <[redacted] (b)(6)>
Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 8:03:06 PM
To: [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>>
Subject: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, Director of the NEC Larry Kudlow, and NSC Advisor John Bolton, 11/27/2018, #104

[The White House]
Office of the Press Secretary
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 27, 2018

PRESS BRIEFING
BY PRESS SECRETARY SARAH SANDERS,
DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL LARRY KUDLOW,
AND NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR AMBASSADOR JOHN BOLTON

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:35 P.M. EST

MS. SANDERS: Good afternoon. Later this week, the President and First Lady will travel to Argentina for the G20 Summit. President Trump's participation in the G20 Summit is a key opportunity to reiterate his commitment to domestic and global economic growth and prosperity, cement relations with other world leaders, and advance a global economic system that is based on fair economic competition and free, fair, and reciprocal trade.

While at the G20, the President and the delegation will interact -- interact with many leaders, including bilateral meetings with the President of Argentina, the President of Russia, the Prime Minister of Japan, and the Chancellor of Germany, and a working dinner with the President of China.

To speak more about the G20 and what the President intends to accomplish, I'd like to welcome to the podium Director of the National Economic Council Larry Kudlow and, following him, National Security Advisor Ambassador John Bolton.

After their remarks, both will be available to take your questions on the G20 and other foreign policy news of the day. And then I'll be back up to take other questions on news of the day. Thanks.

MR. KUDLOW: Thank you, Sarah. Thanks everybody. Let me just walk through some quick themes and then I want to mention some things the President talked -- talked to us just a little while ago.

As Sarah said, G20 -- funny, it's not actually the G20 when we count it up properly. As Ambassador Bolton points out, it's much more than the G20.

Now, in terms of the U.S. positions, we're going to use this as an opportunity to talk about our measures of tax cuts and deregulations, and reskilling and job training, and so forth that have generated significant economic growth and prosperity. And that includes women's economic empowerment.

As Sarah mentioned, free, fair, and reciprocal trade and trade reform. There'll be discussions of infrastructure, finance, and also the U.S. emergence as the dominant energy power in the world today, actually.

In terms of the much-discussed meeting -- it's going to be a dinner meeting between President Trump and President Xi and representatives from both sides. It will be a bilateral. I want to just mention what the President told us a short while ago and that is, in his view, there's a good possibility that a deal can be made and that he is open to that. He is open to that.

But having said that -- some caveats, as always -- certain conditions have to be met with respect to fairness and reciprocities. We've said many times, for example, issues of intellectual property theft must be solved. Forced technology transfers must be solved. Significant tariffs and non-tariff barriers must be solved. Issues of ownership have to be solved.

The President will probably reiterate his view: We want a world, ideally, of zero tariffs, zero non-tariff barriers, and zero subsidies. Now, whether they can through all of that remains to be seen but that's the President's point of view, as I said just a little while ago.

The U.S. is coming to the summit in very good shape. Our economy is quite strong. It's growing at 3 percent over the past year. Second quarter was 4.2. Third quarter was 3.5, perhaps to be revised upwards. We're in a very strong holiday season, so-called "Black Friday." Very strong.

We've had tremendous investments -- business investments, energy investments. Oil prices and gasoline prices are coming down. That helps consumers of course. We're in very good shape.

China, not so good. I'm not here to critique or second-guess the Chinese economy, but most observers believe China to be in a slump, whereas the United States is in a very strong solid position going into this summit.

However, again, to repeat, the President said, there is a good possibility that we can make a deal. And he is open to it. But on the other hand, if these conditions I mentioned a few moments ago are not met and not dealt with -- you know, the President said, look, he's perfectly happy to stand on his tariff policies, which -- 10 percent, the last \$200 billion -- scheduled to go to 25 percent. That's not a certainty, but that's the schedule.

And he has said as recently as yesterday, the day before, if need be -- if things don't work out in this U.S.-China summit meeting, he will invoke another 267-some-odd billion dollars in tariffs. That may not be the first choice. I'm just saying that is his view if we can't get something done.

And things have been moving very slowly between the two countries, until the President himself called President Xi and said, "Let's restart. Let's try to get things going again." And then, since then, he's made positive comments about that. So we will see.

As I said, the key U.S. goals surround growth and prosperity. And you know, our economy is in good shape; theirs is not.

I'll just leave it right there. John, do you want to add stuff to that? Do you want me to take some questions?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Go ahead.

MR. KUDLOW: You sure? Okay, good. Let me take some questions and try to help out on this.

Yes.

Q Mr. Kudlow, I'd like you to address some concerns recently from representatives in Italy and France and Germany who say that we're actually backing away from the national stage and they fear that Russia will be the dominant economic force in Europe and the Middle East in the coming years. Could you address those concerns, A? And, B, can you tell us a little bit, if you can, about the layoffs at GM?

MR. KUDLOW: Well, I'll talk to you about GM layoffs. Regarding the Russian story, I'm going to leave that to my long-time friend and colleague, John Bolton.

I met with Mary Barra yesterday and we had a lengthy conversation about the layoffs, the cause of the layoffs. It's a great disappointment, obviously.

The President indicated his own disappointment. He believes -- as, frankly, the Prime Minister of Canada, Trudeau, believes -- that the USMCA deal was a great help to the automobile industry and to autoworkers. And, by the way, they made those statements separately.

And yet, GM comes in right after the deal -- by the way, that deal will be signed in Argentina with the U.S. and Canadian representatives. So there's great disappointment there. There's disappointment that it seems like GM would rather build its electric cars in China rather than in the United States.

We are going to be looking at certain subsidies regarding electric cars and others -- whether they should apply or not. I can't say anything final about that, but we're looking into it. Again, that reflects the President's own disappointment regarding these actions.

Ms. Barra told me on the other hand -- I want to be completely fair here -- it's her business -- it may be possible to transfer workers to other plants in Texas and Michigan. I'm not an expert on General Motors. I'm not an analyst -- auto analyst. But that's what she said.

But obviously there's lot of disappointment, even anger. I've heard it, again, from Mr. Trudeau, from President Trump, from Democrats and Republicans.

Q And just to follow up, do you think it's going to adversely affect our economy coming to the Christmas season and after?

MR. KUDLOW: No. I mean, look, I don't want anybody to get laid off. I'm -- I want workers to do very well. I want worker wages to do well, and they are. I mean, that's one of the great things.

You know, there's a certain amount of pessimism that I'm reading about. Maybe it has to do with a -- really, a mild stock market correction. Let's not forget a couple weeks ago. Just on this very point, we had 250,000 new jobs, which was a blockbuster number. Nobody really expected it. With a 3.1 percent yearly gain in wages and a 3.7 percent unemployment rate -- those are very spiffy numbers by any benchmark in any metric.

So again, holiday season layoffs from GM -- brutal. Brutal. All right? Very disappointing. Will it affect the overall economy? I don't think so. I do not think so.

Yes.

Q Yeah, back to the question over the tariffs and -- if these talks with President Xi go nowhere and we move forward with this escalation of the tariffs that you just described -- which, correct me if I'm wrong, would be the biggest addition of tariffs that we've seen in your lifetime -- what will the impact be on the U.S. economy? I mean, you -- and I'm asking -

MR. KUDLOW: That's a long -- that's a long period of time you mentioned. My lifetime.

Q Well, you know, but I -- (laughter). I mean, you have been a committed free trader for almost all of those years.

MR. KUDLOW: Yes.

Q So what will be the impact on the U.S. economy if we see tariffs go up to the degree that you just described?

MR. KUDLOW: You know, we'll see what happens, okay? I don't want to presuppose anything. The President is going to make up his mind after the meeting.

But I will say this: Our economy is in very good shape right now. And when you multiply through whatever numbers you want to use -- \$250 billion or tack on another tranche, which may or may not happen, at a 10 percent tariff rate or more -- it's really just a fraction of our economy. Okay? It's just a fraction of our economy.

I'm not suggesting that there aren't winners and losers in that game. It's a complicated game. But on the other hand, I think we are in far better shape to weather this than the Chinese are.

And I want to say one other thing. I really appreciate your characterization; I am a free trader. But you have to ask yourself -- and this is what President Trump has been talking about -- is it free trade when there is clear evidence of unfair and WTO illegal trading practices by China for several decades? Is that fair? Is that free? Is it free when intellectual property theft occurs or when Chinese ownership of American companies force transference of technology from American companies to the Chinese companies? Is that fair? Or high tariffs on agriculture and industrial supplies, is that fair?

So President Trump is the first President in, I don't know, at least 20 years -- and I'm including Democrats and Republicans -- who not only has made this case but continues to make this case forcefully and to take actions to defend American workers and our overall economy. Other Presidents in both parties have raised the issue and then walked away from it and President Trump obviously doesn't intend to.

You know, this is under the heading, I think, for him, of "Promises made, promises kept." It's something he's talked about for several years and he now continues.

If China will come to the table -- or, in this case, the dinner table -- with some new ideas and some new attitudes and some new cooperation, as the President said, there's a good possibility they can make a deal. He's open to it. So nothing is written in cement or stone. But, again, for a free trader, where's the free trade?

And, for several months now, since I've been here, the President and I have talked about this -- you know, we'd love to see a world of zero tariffs, and zero non-tariff barriers, and zero subsidies. We'd love to see that world. But unfortunately we don't have that world, particularly with respect to China, but not only China. And so he's taking actions that he thinks will get us closer to that world.

We can go around. Yes, please.

Q Thanks. Just another GM question: When the President said yesterday "they better damn well open [up] a new plant there very quickly," was he just venting his frustration? Or does he have some consequences in mind if they don't?

MR. KUDLOW: You know, I'm going to leave that to him. You may find additional announcements coming on that topic.

Some more? Let me go in the back. Yes, ma'am.

Q I wanted to ask you about what Ambassador Cui Tiankai said recently to the Wall Street Journal.

MR. KUDLOW: Who?

Q Ambassador Cui Tiankai, the Chinese Ambassador to the United States.

MR. KUDLOW: Yes.

Q His thought was that there would be a real risk to global -- to the global markets if there wasn't a deal. That they could become fragmented as well. How big are the stakes if you can't reach a deal?

MR. KUDLOW: Look, the ambassador makes a point. Now, if he would do his part or his government would do their part, then we can all make a much better point. That's what President Trump is saying.

I mean, I'll read you the quote again. There's a "good possibility" we can make a deal, and he's open to it. But certain conditions, you know, have to be met. Certain things have to be changed. And the President, again, in the spirit of "Promises made, promises kept," is going to defend, you know, the interests of the American workers and ranchers and small businesses and the economy writ large.

We've -- let me just add one other point to this: The rest of the world agrees with us. I mean, we signed, at the U.N., for example, the trilateral agreement with the EU and the United States and Japan -- worth looking at that document, which outlines, you know, what they call "non-market abuses." Read: China.

Just recently, before the Shanghai conference where President Xi was to give an important speech -- I'm not sure there was much new there. But in any case, just before that conference, with no prodding from the USA, the ambassadors -- the French and German ambassadors to China -- the French and German ambassadors to China wrote a very tough piece going after, again, non-market, unfair, non-reciprocal trading practices. There is broad-based support for the American position here, which is China should change its practices and come into the community of responsible trading nations.

They can do that. Right? They're a major economy right now. It's not like they were 25 or 30 years ago. We would welcome it. The President has said he's happy to make a deal, but they have to take certain actions and give certain assurances. So, you know.

Q Director, does that mean you'll spend the G20 getting that support around your position from other countries at the G20?

MR. KUDLOW: I'm sure we will. I'm sure we will. We have in many other forms. It's got more -- I want Ambassador -- I want Ambassador -- yes, please.

Q Mr. Kudlow, thank you.

Q (Inaudible.)

Q Yes, he was talking to me.

Tariffs are -- in effect, are tax on imported products that are paid for by the consumer. So does the President realize that these escalated tariffs are going to be paid for by the American citizens?

MR. KUDLOW: Well, look, he realizes the ramifications. As I said earlier, given the strength of our economy, given the size of our economy, we are in position to deal with this and handle this very well. That's the key point. And I'm not so sure about China, but I'll leave that to China experts, and so forth and so on.

The benefits -- let me just look at the other side of the ledgers. Very important. The benefits of true, free trade, globally, will be enormous. You know, if we go back to the idea of zero tariffs, and zero non-tariff barriers, and zero subsidies; if China plays by the rules, even the WTO rules -- and all of that needs reforming, in our judgement -- but they are violating those rules. If we do have a free trading system or we move in the direction of the free trading system -- a true free trading system -- we will benefit enormously. And, frankly, we will benefit, they will benefit, and the rest of the world will benefit.

You know, free trade throws off enormous benefits when it's done properly, and consistency, and in a reciprocal manner. That's the key point the President emphasized and he's absolutely right.

So, you know, I think of it -- this is a -- possibly a long rainbow here, and at the end of that rainbow is a pot of gold. You open up that pot and you have prosperity for the rest of the world, but you got to get through that long rainbow. We're not there yet. We can get there, the President is reaching out, but we'll see how that works.

Yes, go ahead. I'm sorry. Yes, go ahead.

Q Thank you, sir. Earlier, you mentioned low oil and gas prices as evidence that the President's economic policy is working. You mentioned the U.S. becoming the global dominant energy player. But merely days ago, the President said that it was necessary to let Saudi Arabia and its Crown Prince get away with ordering the murder of a Washington Post journalist because Saudi Arabia ensures low gas prices. Now, which one is it sir?

MR. KUDLOW: I'm going to let Ambassador Bolton handle that question. I'm trying so hard to swim in my own lane, and I think John will help out with that whole discussion. He's sitting there much too calmly and quietly so I want to get him up here. We've known each other a very long time.

You're on, John.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I'm delighted to be here. (Laughter.) I don't really have much to add. Sarah gave you the list of bilaterals. Let me just update it a little bit because we're trying to fill every minute of the President's schedule.

She said he's going to meet with President Macri, the host government of Argentina. He'll meet with President Moon of South Korea. He'll meet with President Erdogan of Turkey, Prime Minister Abe of Japan. That will transform at some point during that meeting into a trilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. And then, as Sarah said, the President will meet with President Putin, and have a working dinner with President Xi.

Yeah, right here.

Q Thank you, sir. Does the President have any plans in the works to meet with the Saudi Crown Prince while he is there?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: No. Look, the bilateral schedule is full to overflowing at this point, and so those are ones that I've listed that he'll be meeting with.

Q Hello? Yes. I have a question about the border tensions right now with the U.S. and Mexico.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Yes.

Q The U.S. launched tear gas canisters into Mexican soil, and I'm wondering if you've gotten any -- if Mexico has given the go ahead before that happened. And what is the U.S. doing to mitigate any tensions right now with the incoming López Obrador administration?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Yeah. I don't think that's really a subject of the G20. But I can say that Secretary of State Pompeo, who will be attending the G20, and therefore will not be accompanying Vice President Pence to the inauguration on Saturday the 1st -- Secretary Pompeo will fly overnight from Argentina to Mexico, and will meet with the new foreign minister of Mexico on Sunday the 2nd. And they'll have a full conversation about all the issues in connection with the border.

Q What do you expect to be on the agenda for the President's meeting with Putin?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I think all of the issues that we have on security issues; on arms control issues; on regional issues, including the Middle East -- I think it will be a full agenda. I think it will be a continuation of their discussion in Helsinki.

Q Thank you so much, Ambassador. Two questions about Brazil since you are heading there on Thursday to meet with the new incoming President from Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro. One on trade that I know is one of the priorities: For the past few years, Brazil had a trade surplus with Brazil.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: The United States had a trade surplus with Brazil?

Q Just last year, \$27 billion alone. And besides of that, President Trump complained about the Brazilian protectionism. He said Brazil is one of the "toughest" on trade access. What should we expect -- related to trade relationship with Brazil -- with the new Brazilian government? Should we expect more cooperation or more tariffs like those on steel and aluminum?

And another one on Venezuela that I know is another priority of the meeting. What kind of cooperation are you expecting with the new Brazilian government? Are you guys going to discuss sanctions?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, the meeting with President-elect Bolsonaro came as a result of President Trump's call on election night in Brazil to congratulate President-elect Bolsonaro. They had a really outstanding phone call -- I think developed a personal relationship, even remotely. President Trump was the first foreign leader to call President-elect Bolsonaro.

So, following up on this, we thought it would be useful and certainly very helpful to the United States to hear from the President-elect what his priorities are, what he's looking for in the relationship.

From the perspective of the United States, we see this as a historic opportunity for Brazil and the United States to work together in a whole host of areas: economics, security, and a range of others. So I'm really looking forward to hearing what the President-elect's priorities are, try and respond to him, and try to tell him a little bit about what President

Trump's views are. And hopefully, when President-elect Bolsonaro is inaugurated on January the 1st, that the two leaders can really get off to a running start.

So I'm just really there to prepare the ground for them.

Q Ambassador Bolton, you tweeted earlier today about a case involving an American family that's being held in China. Is the President -- have you talked to the President about this case? What is he -- if so, what has he told you? And will he bring this up directly at his meeting with Xi Jinping and expect the family to be allowed to leave before any trade deal is done?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I've discussed the question of American hostages and people wrongfully held with him on a whole range of subjects. I don't want to get into what his reaction was, because I don't think those conversations should be public. But this is a matter of real concern to us. And I think, given that the range of issues that President Xi and President Trump will be covering, it's entirely possible that that would come up.

Q Ambassador Bolton.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Yeah.

Q Thank you. Back to that meeting with President Putin and President Trump. Will President Trump condemn Russia's aggression in Ukraine? Does the U.S. consider it an act of war? And has he spoken with either Putin or Poroshenko about what happened?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Look, Ambassador Haley, in the very estimable position of U.N. ambassador, spoke for the United States yesterday at the Security Council and we're going to stand on that statement.

Q Ambassador Bolton, I just had a question about the -- you mentioned the bilat with the Turkish leader. They've been very critical of the U.S. position backing Saudi Arabia with respect to the killing of Jamal Khashoggi. Are you concerned that that will affect the relations with the U.S. ally?

And I wanted to follow up -- that audio intelligence of the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, have you heard that tape? And does it conclusively point to the Crown Prince as ordering the killing of Jamal Khashoggi?

And one final one --

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I'm supposed to remember all these? (Laughter.)

Q I'll prompt you, if need help.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Thank you.

Q And finally, is it true the White House is blocking Gina Haspel from speaking to senators about that audio intelligence on Wednesday?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: So, let me take the question of the tape first. No, I haven't listened to it. And I guess I should ask you, why do you think I should? What do you think I'll learn from it?

Q Well, you're the National Security Advisor. You might have access to that sort of intelligence.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Yeah. How many in this room speak Arabic?

Q You don't have access to an interpreter?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: What, you want me to listen to it? What am I going to learn from -- I mean, if they were speaking Korean, I wouldn't learn any more from it either.

Q Well, an interpreter would be able to tell you what's going on.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, then I can read a transcript, too.

Q Okay. So you don't think it's important that you hear that as the National Security Advisor?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I'm just trying to make the point that everybody who says, "Why don't you listen to the tape?" Unless you speak Arabic, what are you going to get from it, really?

The President -- the President has spoken to our position on this issue. He's spoken very clearly. And that is our position.

Now, tell me the other questions.

Q Are you blocking Gina Haspel from --

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: No, certainly not.

Q -- sharing information with members of the Congress?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Certainly not. Certainly not.

Okay? No, back here in the back.

Q Mr. Bolton, could you --

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Sorry. The man in the back.

Q Okay, so the Argentinian authority captured two Hezbollah suspects last week. And Brazil probably is going to follow the American footsteps and blacklist Hezbollah also on terrorist list.

And also, Hezbollah is replying for the sanctions -- the last sanctions -- by blocking the formation of the new government; it's a quotation for Saad Hariri. So how will you put all this together? Is it going to be discussed in the G[20] Summit -- [G]20 Summit -- Iran and Hezbollah influence the region?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I expect in the bilateral meetings, depending on the country, that there will be substantial conversation about counterterrorism efforts where we participate together. That's certainly something that may well come up in Brazil with the President-elect Bolsonaro. And I think it's one of President Trump's biggest priorities, to extend cooperation against terrorism, whether it's Hezbollah or Hamas or others.

So, entirely likely, it could be a subject.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Ambassador, going back to the Khashoggi issue. Being informed about an issue is part of, I guess, what is in the scope of national security.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: We try to be.

Q Okay. But in the midst of it, why not -- I'm going to go back to that question again, sir. Why not get a translator to understand, to hear what happened? You could find out a little bit more than what they've told you by listening.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: People who speak Arabic have listened to the tape, and they have given us the substance of what's in it.

Q And you trust those who've given you the substance --

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I don't speak Arabic.

Q I know. But a translator -- you could hear the emotion, and a translator could help you understand what happened at that time to relay to the President, to the United States, and to convey to the world what happened.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I'm very satisfied that we know what the tape picked up. And it was factored into the President's decision. And he's announced his position very clearly.

Q As economic security is national security, I think this should be in your lane.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I was going to defer to Larry, but it's --

Q (Laughs.) Let me see if I can keep it in your lane, if I could. The talks with China have been marked with intransigence, disappointment. Larry was talking about that at length this morning -- this idea of some sense of optimism going into this Saturday night dinner with Xi. Is it based on any notion that Xi is going to suddenly say, you know, "This idea of intellectual property theft and forced technology transfer, protectionist tariffs -- I don't know what we were thinking. It was a bad idea. Let's level the playing field and start anew."

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I think President Trump has developed a very positive relationship with President Xi. They've met. They've spoken over the phone. Obviously, both leaders carry in to any discussion like this their national interest. And I think it's instructive and I think the Chinese side believes the same thing -- to have the two leaders exchange their views in the presence of their senior advisors. And not with the expectation that, at this meeting, there'll be some substantial agreement coming out of it, but that there would be an indication, a kind of way ahead that the advisors could then pursue.

And I see Sarah is so eager to be here to answer your questions (inaudible).

MS. SANDERS: I was going to give him one more but --

Q Well, Mr. Kudlow deferred a question to him. Could he answer the question that was deferred to him, please? Mr. Bolton. (Inaudible) Bolton.

MS. SANDERS: I think he's already going. (Laughter.)

As you know, the new President of Mexico will be inaugurated on Saturday. To represent the United States in Mexico City, President Trump has asked the Vice President Mike Pence to lead a delegation that will include the Second Lady of the United States Karen Pence, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen, Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, United States Embassy Mexico City Diplomat John Creamer, and Assistant Secretary of State Kimberly Breier.

Lastly, this morning, we learned the sad news that three U.S. service members were killed and three wounded when an explosive device detonated in Afghanistan.

The wounded service members were evacuated and are receiving medical care. We extend our thoughts and prayers to the loved ones of those killed and to those recovering.

The United States is grateful for their service and forever in debt of their sacrifice.

With that, I'll take your questions.

Justin.

Q Sarah, the Guardian is reporting today that Paul Manafort met with Julian Assange around the time that he was coming onboard with the Trump campaign. I'm wondering if you know if that meeting took place, and if you remain confident in the White House's repeated denials that no campaign officials were involved in discussions about the plans to release John Podesta's emails?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly, I remain confident in the White House's assertion that the President was involved in no wrongdoing -- was not part of any collusion. The things that have to do with Mr. Manafort, I would refer you to his attorneys to address that.

Q Sarah, given what the President said this morning that Robert Mueller is "ruining" people's lives, is he considering a pardon for Paul Manafort, or for others who were prosecuted and have been prosecuted?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not aware of any conversations for anyone's pardon involving this process at all.

Q And if I can follow up -- he also said this morning Mueller is "doing TREMENDOUS damage" to the criminal justice system. If that's true, is he considering picking up the phone, calling his acting Attorney General, and saying, "Fire Robert Mueller?"

MS. SANDERS: Look, I think that the President has had Robert Mueller doing his job for the last two years, and he could've taken action at any point, and he hasn't. So we'll let that speak for itself.

THE PRESIDENT: So is he (inaudible) it out now?

MS. SANDERS: He has no intent to do anything.

Zeke.

Q Thanks, Sarah. Over the weekend, we saw some powerful images of children, as well as adults, who were affected by tear gas fired by U.S. officers along the U.S.-Mexico border. We heard the President talk about that at length yesterday. But one thing we did not hear from him was any expression, really, of regret that there were children caught up in this. I was wondering, does the White House regret the fact that children were affected by tear gas, and that this situation took place? And are they -- is there an investigation underway to prevent this from happening again?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly the White House would never want children to be in harm's way in any capacity whatsoever.

However, that is why we are continuing to encourage people to follow the law and go to ports of entry. Law enforcement officials have used appropriate, non-lethal force to protect themselves, and prevent an illegal rush across the border.

And let's also not forget that this isn't the first time that non-lethal force like this has been used. In fact, tear gas was used on average once a month during the Obama administration for very similar circumstances. In fact, they were actually for far less circumstances, because they didn't have the same numbers in the mass rush that we're seeing in this caravan take place.

Certainly no one wants women or children or any individuals to have this happen, which is why we've encouraged them to actually follow the law and go to ports of entry.

Q And, Sarah, if I may, can I just follow up real quick on something that Ambassador Bolton actually -- when he ruled out a bilat that the President and MBS -- is the White House ruling out any interaction between the President and the Saudi Crown Prince, and is he sort of in the equivalent of a diplomatic time-out?

MS. SANDERS: I wouldn't say that we've ruled out any interaction. I know that the President's schedule is pretty packed and has a number of sessions that he'll be involved in with the G20, as well as a number of bilats. I don't think there is any time for us to add anything additional. Whether or not there is some interaction, I'm not going to rule that out and we'll keep you guys posted as to what happens tomorrow.

Q Thanks, Sarah. Yesterday in Mississippi at his rally, the President said -- he asked a question about Mike Espy. He said, "How does he fit in with Mississippi? I mean, how does he fit in?" I guess suggesting that he doesn't fit in. I mean, Mike Espy's great-grandparents were slaves in Mississippi. What did the President mean by that?

MS. SANDERS: Due to the fact that is an election that is taking place today, I'm not going to comment on anything that could affect anything taking place in Mississippi. And I'm certainly happy to comment on that after today.

Jon.

Q Thanks a lot Sarah.

Q But the President was talking (inaudible) --

MS. SANDERS: The President is not guided by the Hatch Act.

Jon, go ahead.

Q Thanks a lot, Sarah. Does the administration have a position on the President of Ecuador continuing to provide asylum to Julian Assange at its embassy in London?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not aware of anything official. I'd have to get back to you.

Q Just one more on that, if I may, Sarah. Will you, from the podium, call on the Ecuadorian government to confirm whether or not some sort of meeting may have taken place between Paul Manafort and Julian Assange at its embassy?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly we encourage the process to continue to play out, but I'm not going to get engaged in specifics of that case.

Weijia.

Q Sarah, President Trump has implied that a potential new deal with Mexico is a done deal, tweeting that migrants will stay in Mexico as they wait for their cases of asylum to be processed. How far along are talks with the new Mexican administration about the so-called "Remain in Mexico" policy?

MS. SANDERS: Those conversations continue. We won't have a final decision until the new government actually takes over, which will happen on Saturday. And on Monday, we expect the Foreign -- the new Foreign Minister for Mexico to meet and sit down with White House administration officials and the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and continue and try to finalize those conversations.

Q A second question on Khashoggi because, tomorrow, Secretaries Pompeo and Mattis will brief the full Senate on the murder. Why is a leader of a U.S. intelligence agency not joining them -- specifically Gina Haspel, who many senators expect to hear from?

MS. SANDERS: Ambassador Bolton addressed this. I'm not going to comment on behalf of the CIA Director in that capacity. That's something that I would direct you to them to answer.

Q Sarah, I want to ask you about the climate assessment that your administration released last week. The President, yesterday, when asked about the economic forecast, essentially said he didn't believe it.

The takeaway for many people is that the President doesn't feel necessarily a responsibility to lead, either in this country or in the world, on climate change and preventing the calamity that your administration forecasts. Do you agree with that view? And if not, why not?

MS. SANDERS: The President is certainly lean- -- leading on what matters most in this process. And that's on having clean air, clean water. In fact, the United States continues to be a leader on that front. Even Obama's undersecretary for science didn't believe the radical conclusions of the report that was released.

And you have to look at the fact that this report is based on the most extreme modeled scenario, which contradicts long-established trends. Modeling the climate is an extremely complicated science that is never exact.

The biggest thing that we can do is focus on how to make sure we have the cleanest air, the cleanest water. And the President is certainly doing that and certainly leading on that front.

Q Sarah, how is he doing that? I mean, the President is about to go to Buenos Aires and meet with all the leaders of the world's industrialized nations -- and developing nations, as well. Isn't this a great opportunity for him to sit at the table and say, "Folks, this is what my administration just reported. This is the time that we all have to act in concert to prevent what my administration is forecasting"?

MS. SANDERS: Once again, we think that this is the most extreme version and it's not based on facts. It's based on -- it's not data-driven. We'd like to see something that is more data-driven. It's based on modeling, which is extremely hard to do when you're talking about the climate.

Again, our focus is on making sure we have the safest, cleanest air and water. And the President is going to do exactly that.

April.

Q Sarah, I want to go back to GM. President Trump early on in January 2017 met with the big three automakers, and he said he wanted to make the U.S. a more attractive place for companies to manufacture products by lowering taxes and business regulations. What does this move, this action by GM say?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly, it's disappointing to see that GM decided to lay off these workers. The President has been extremely committed to bringing manufacturing jobs back to the United States, which is why, since he took office, we've seen 400,000 new manufacturing jobs created in the United States. It's because of his policies that we've seen that grow.

This is not about the President; it's about the fact that they're making a car, frankly, that people don't want to buy. And hopefully they will make adjustments and make changes and bring those workers back.

Jim.

Q Sarah, getting back to Paul Manafort and the Special Counsel's office saying that he's violating the terms of his plea agreement by lying to investigators. Would the President recommend that Mr. Manafort begin to cooperate, offer full cooperation to the Special Counsel's office?

MS. SANDERS: We can only speak to what our role is in that process. And not only has the President, but the entire administration has been fully cooperative with the Special Counsel's office, providing hours and hours of sit-downs, as well as over 4 million pages in documents.

We continue to be cooperative, but we also know that there was no collusion and we're ready for this to wrap up.

Q And if I could ask a follow-up? The President doesn't believe the warnings in the climate report. The President doesn't believe the CIA when it comes to Jamal Khashoggi. The President doesn't believe the --

MS. SANDERS: That's not accurate.

Q -- intelligence community when it comes to Russia meddling. Why doesn't he have faith in his advisors?

MS. SANDERS: That's not true. The President has a great deal of faith in the intelligence community and certainly in the team that he has assembled around him.

However, I've addressed the climate report. There's really nothing else to add on that front.

Q But on Khashoggi, you said that that was not true, that he doesn't believe the CIA. He said the other day: Maybe MBS did, maybe he didn't -- the Crown Prince.

MS. SANDERS: And we haven't seen definitive evidence come from our intelligence community that ties him directly to that. What we have seen is a number of individuals that we know are tied to that and those individuals have been sanctioned. The people that we have no doubt about their involvement, we've taken action on. And as he said, we'll see what happens beyond that. And if there is more definitive information, we'll make a decision at that point.

Roberta.

Q Sarah, the "Remain in Mexico" meeting that you talked about on Monday, is that happening here or in Mexico? And is the United States offering Mexico any international assistance to help accommodate the migrants seeking asylum who would be staying in Mexico as a result?

MS. SANDERS: Sorry, on that second question, do you mind repeating that? I was -- the first part on whether or not the meeting is here or in Mexico, I'll get back to you on that. I'm not sure on the exact location.

Q Okay. Is the United States offering Mexico any financial assistance, or does the United States plan to, to accommodate the migrants who would be staying in Mexico as a result?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not aware of financial assistance, but certainly we'll keep you posted if (inaudible).

Q Just to clean up -- just to clean up on the bilats. You mentioned in your list a bilat with the Chancellor of Germany, but the Ambassador did not. Has that bilat been canceled?

MS. SANDERS: No, it hasn't. I just think he was giving additional updates on the one that I didn't mention.

John.

Q Sarah, the President tweeted at length yesterday about the Mueller report, asking if it was going to show both sides. What are his concerns about any forthcoming Mueller report? And as that report is supposed to be delivered to no one else by the attorney general, is he concerned that's it going to become public without his knowledge?

MS. SANDERS: I don't think the President has any concerns about the report because he knows that there was no wrongdoing by him and that there was no collusion. So I don't think he has concern on that front.

Q If he has no concerns, why is he tweeting so vociferously about it?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly the President has voiced his unhappiness from the beginning that this has gone on -- this ridiculous witch hunt -- for more than two years. Still nothing that ties anything to the President, and we'd like to see it come to conclusion.

Peter.

Q Thank you, Sarah. Does the President believe that the work of the Special Prosecutor Bob Mueller is illegitimate?

MS. SANDERS: I'm sorry?

Q Does the President believe that the prosecutions -- the indictments of Bob Mueller are illegitimate?

MS. SANDERS: I think the President believes that what I've said several times today and several times over the last couple of years -- that there was no wrongdoing on his part; there was no collusion by his campaign. And beyond that, that's really all we can speak about here at the White House.

Last question. Hallie.

Q Thank you. Two questions for you. The President, as you were speaking, is tweeting that he is going to be considering cutting all GM subsidies, including for electric cars. Can you explain why -- he says that he thinks that would help American workers. Can you explain why that wouldn't end up backfiring as we've already seen, and who the President has consulted, and what a timeline is for this decision?

MS. SANDERS: I don't know that there is a specific timeline. As he said, he's looking into what those options might look like. The President wants to see American companies build cars here in America, not build them overseas. And he is hopeful that GM will continue to do that here.

Second question.

Q And my second question for you is on Afghanistan. The President, on Thanksgiving Day, told U.S. troops that we are winning the war in Afghanistan, which contradicted what the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said -- that it was a stalemate. Does the President today still believe, after what we saw over the weekend, that we are winning in Afghanistan? And why?

MS. SANDERS: Certainty anytime you have a loss of life, particularly by an American service member, it is a horrific tragedy and something that no President wants to see, certainly not during their administration. And the President wants to make sure that the battle that we're fighting takes place there and not here. And he's going to continue consulting with his national security team and make decisions on how best to move forward beyond that.

Thanks so much, guys. Have a great day.

END 2:19 P.M. EST

Unsubscribe<<https://whitehouse.us19.list-manage.com/unsubscribe?u=c97630621baff8c44fe607661&id=7b5d730337&e=9af64d74fe&c=4685f8895e>>

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From: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]
Sent: (b)(6) Wednesday, February 20, 2019 1:27 PM
To: Bill Hudson
Subject: Fwd: Press Release from Oversight Majority: Multiple Whistleblowers Raise Grave Concerns with White House Efforts to Transfer Sensitive U.S. Nuclear Technology to Saudi Arabia

I guess you have more work coming your way.

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov>
Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 11:51:30 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>
Subject: Press Release from Oversight Majority: Multiple Whistleblowers Raise Grave Concerns with White House Efforts to Transfer Sensitive U.S. Nuclear Technology to Saudi Arabia

Multiple Whistleblowers Raise Grave Concerns with White House Efforts to Transfer Sensitive U.S. Nuclear Technology to Saudi Arabia

Feb 19, 2019

Press Release

Cummings Releases Interim Staff Report and Corroborating Documents, Launches Investigation of White House, Agencies, and Others

Washington, D.C. (Feb. 19, 2019)—Today, Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, the Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, issued an interim staff report after multiple whistleblowers came forward to warn about efforts inside the White House to rush the transfer of highly sensitive U.S. nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia in potential violation of the Atomic Energy Act and without review by Congress as required by law—efforts that may be ongoing to this day. The report states:

“The whistleblowers who came forward have expressed significant concerns about the potential procedural and legal violations connected with rushing through a plan to transfer nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia. They have warned of conflicts of interest among top White House advisers that could implicate federal criminal statutes. They have also warned about a working environment inside the White House marked by chaos, dysfunction, and backbiting. And they have warned about political appointees ignoring directives from top ethics advisors at the White House who repeatedly and unsuccessfully ordered senior Trump Administration officials to halt their efforts.”

The report warns that that White House efforts to transfer sensitive U.S. nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia may be accelerating after meetings last week at the White House and ahead of a planned visit to Saudi Arabia by the President’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner:

“The Committee’s investigation is particularly critical because the Administration’s efforts to transfer sensitive U.S. nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia appear to be ongoing. On February 12, 2019, the President met with nuclear power developers at the White House about sharing nuclear technology with countries in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia. In addition, next week Mr. Kushner will be embarking on a tour of Middle Eastern capitals—including Riyadh—to discuss the economic portion of the Administration’s Middle East peace plan.”

The report highlights concerning events involving Saudi Arabia, including the brutal murder of *Washington Post* columnist Jamal Khashoggi, which was met with equivocation by President Trump and other top Administration officials, and the refusal by the White House to submit a report on Mr. Khashoggi’s killing that was requested on a bipartisan basis by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

The report indicates that there is now serious, bipartisan concern with the Trump Administration's efforts to transfer sensitive U.S. nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia. For example, on October 31, 2018, Republican Senators Marco Rubio, Todd Young, Cory Gardner, Rand Paul, and Dean Heller sent a [letter](#) to President Trump urging him to "suspend talks related to a potential civil nuclear cooperation agreement between the United States and Saudi Arabia" due to "serious concerns about the transparency, accountability, and judgment of current decisionmakers in Saudi Arabia."

The report describes [new documents and communications](#) between White House officials, including former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn, former Deputy National Security Advisor K.T. McFarland, and former NSC Senior Director for Middle East and North African Affairs Derek Harvey, as well as with Thomas Barrack, President Trump's personal friend of several decades and the Chairman of his Inaugural Committee, and Rick Gates, President Trump's former Deputy Campaign Manager and Deputy Chairman of the Inaugural Committee who has now pleaded guilty to financial fraud and lying to investigators.

Today, Cummings also sent letters to multiple entities involved with promoting this plan, including the White House; the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Energy, State, and Treasury; the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Central Intelligence Agency; Flynn Intel Group; IP3; ACU Strategies; Colony NorthStar; and Mr. Barrack.

Click [here](#) to read the interim staff report.

Click [here](#) to read the documents released with the report.

Click [here](#) to read the letter to the White House.

###

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)
From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2018 3:35 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: (b)(6) Fwd: trumpintel story

From: "Miller, Greg" [redacted] (b)(6)
Date: Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 1:56:35 PM
To: "[redacted]@ucia.gov">
Subject: trumpintel story (b)(3) CIAAct
fyi (b)(6)

From: Gidley, Hogan H. EOP/WHO
Sent: Thursday, December 6, 2018 1:33 PM
To: Miller, Greg; Sanders, Sarah H. EOP/WHO; Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: hey Garrett do you have a couple minutes to speak by phone?
OFF THE RECORD:
Can you show us some specifics on these perceived "differences" you have?

From: Miller, Greg
Sent: Thursday, December 6, 2018 1:07 PM
To: Sanders, Sarah H. EOP/WHO ; Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC
Cc: Gidley, Hogan H. EOP/WHO
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: hey Garrett do you have a couple minutes to speak by phone?
Hi Sarah,

We are planning to run a story on the president's relationship with the intelligence community as he approaches the end of his second year in office.

The story notes that President Trump's public statements are at odds with the intelligence community on many major international issues -- North Korean commitment to denuclearization, Iranian compliance with nuclear weapons deal, climate change, MBS complicity in Khashoggi death, etc. (As well as his ongoing skepticism that Russia interfered in the 2016 election.)

The story quotes Dan Coats saying that the president is an avid consumer of intelligence and that bringing him unvarnished intelligence on all subjects remains the intelligence community's highest priority.

I have spoken to other intelligence officials, however, who note that the IC has sought to adapt to the president's perceived disinterest in or disagreement with IC findings. Briefing cabinet members who are seen as more receptive to intelligence reports. Writing analytic pieces "for the record" to establish that the IC has issued warnings on North Korea and other subjects.

There are also some scenes in the story that reflect the impact of some of the president's statements - in particular, the reaction from inside intelligence agencies to the president's statements in Helsinki when he made clear that he found Putin's denials credible.

I would be interested to know if you believe there are areas of global threat/significance where the president's views of the facts comport to IC reporting.

Would also appreciate any comment you would care to provide.

Thank you.

Greg

Greg Miller

National Security Correspondent

The Washington Post

(b)(6)

w
m

From: (b)(3) CIAAct
Sent: (b)(6) [redacted]
To: Tuesday, December 04, 2018 10:19 PM
Subject: DNI-Media
Attachments: Fwd: Vanity Fair article
Safari - Dec 4, 2018 at 9:57 PM.pdf

Pls see attached .pdf FYSA

From: Riechmann, Deb (b)(6) on behalf of Riechmann, Deb
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2018 8:00 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: (b)(6) Fwd: WashPost:Turks tell U.S. they have audio & video recordings that prove Khashoggi was killed in Saudi consulate

Assume you saw.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lorenz, Brooke" (b)(6)
Date: October 11, 2018 at 7:39:54 PM EDT
To: "Lorenz, Brooke" (b)(6)
Subject: WashPost:Turks tell U.S. they have audio & video recordings that prove Khashoggi was killed in Saudi consulate

The Washington Post's Shane Harris, Souad Mekhennet, John Hudson and Anne Gearan report: The Turkish government has told U.S. officials that it has audio and video recordings that prove Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi was murdered inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul earlier this month, according to U.S. and Turkish officials. The audio recording in particular provides some of the most persuasive and gruesome evidence that the Saudi team is responsible for Khashoggi's death, the officials said.

"The voice recording from inside the embassy lays out what happened to Jamal after he entered," said one person with knowledge of the recording who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss highly sensitive intelligence. "You can hear his voice and the voices of men speaking Arabic," this person said. "You can hear how he was interrogated, tortured and then murdered."

A second person briefed on the recording said men could be heard beating Khashoggi.

The existence of such evidence would explain why Turkish officials were quick to blame Saudi Arabia for Khashoggi's killing. But Turkish officials are wary of releasing the recordings, fearing they could divulge how the Turks spy on foreign entities in their country, the officials said. It's not clear that U.S. officials have seen the footage or listened to the audio, but Turkish officials have described their contents to their American counterparts.

READ THE FULL STORY: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/turks-tell-us-officials-they-have-audio-and-video-recordings-that-support-conclusion-khashoggi-was-killed/2018/10/11/119a119e-cd88-11e8-920f-dd52e1ae4570_story.html

Brooke Lorenz

Publicist

The Washington Post

O: (b)(6) M: (b)(6)

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From: Nick Shapiro (b)(6) on behalf of Nick Shapiro
Sent: (b)(3) CIAAct Thursday, October 18, 2018 2:40 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6) Marc Raimondi
Cc: David Kris; David Kris
Subject: FYI David Kris interview

Hey all -

FYI that David Kris did an on the record interview today with Peter Nicholas of the WSJ about the alleged Khashoggi murder.

Nick

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From:
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2019 1:46 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: FYSA Sec State Transcript from Morning Interview

Advanced Search<<https://plus.cq.com/advancedsearch>>
Sec. of State Pompeo Interviewed on Fox Business Network

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- * Add to Projects<javascript:;>
- * Print<javascript:;>
- * Email<javascript:;>
- * ?<javascript:;>

CQ Newsmaker Transcripts

Feb. 6, 2019

Feb. 06, 2019 Final

Sec. of State Pompeo Interviewed on Fox Business Network

LIST OF SPEAKERS<<https://plus.cq.com/doc/newsmakertranscripts-5457634?7#speakers>>

MARIA BARTIROMO:

And joining me right now is the secretary of state, Mike Pompeo.

Mr. Secretary, it's good to have you on the program this morning.

MIKE POMPEO, SECRETARY OF STATE:

It's great to be with you, Maria.

BARTIROMO:

The president breaking some news last night about this new meeting that he's got on the books with Kim Jong-un. You're among the few people that has been there meeting with Kim Jong-un.

What should we expect in terms of a breakthrough from this upcoming summit?

POMPEO:

Well, this is a real opportunity for the world. I have a team on the ground in Pyongyang even as we speak beginning to lay those foundations for the -- the meetings that will happen at the end of this month. We are very hopeful that Chairman Kim will fulfill his commitment, the one that he made back in June in Singapore, to denuclearize his country. It's in the best interest of the North Korean people. Certainly in the best interest to keep American's safe as well. That's the president's mission. And that's what we'll seek to advance when we travel to Vietnam in a couple weeks.

BARTIROMO:

And that's -- and that's the main thing -- the main point. I mean the president seems to rely so much on personal diplomacy. My relationship with Kim Jong-un, he says a lot. And yet there seems to be this stalemate when it comes to exactly what you just said, the most important issue.

Do you believe it is still possible for North Korea to denuclearize?

POMPEO:

Oh, of course -- of course I do. We've seen it. We've seen it in the discussions. Chairman Kim has told his own people that they need to turn the course, they need to advance their economic conditions inside of their country. Those were his words, not mine. I think there's every opportunity that Chairman Kim will move on to fulfill the commitments that he made and then we'll, in turn, fulfill the commitments we made towards stability on the peninsula and a better future, a brighter future for the North Korean people.

BARTIROMO:

Mr. Secretary, let me move on to Syria and the pullout. The president also spoke about that last night. There's real opposition to the -- to the president's withdrawal plans here. We saw the -- the Congress vote 70-24 to stop it.

There seems to be no real coherent message. And John Bolton is out saying we're going to go slow. You delivered a very important message in Brussels about multilateralism.

What is the strategy in terms of troops pulling out in Syria and Afghanistan?

POMPEO:

Maria, I think the place to start is, I think the American people should know, America is fundamentally safer today than it was two years ago when this administration took office, whether that's what the president spoke about last night in the near total destruction of the caliphate. You remember -- you remember people being beheaded. People put in cages from ISIS. It seems like a long time ago, but, frankly, it's just -- it's just a couple years. We've made real progress there.

The threat from radical Islamic terrorism remains. It's real.

And the number of troops is a tactical decision about how it is we'll achieve this mission that the president has laid out for his national security team, defending America from this threat. We'll -- we'll put force -- as the president said last night, we'll put forces where we need to. But when we don't need them, when we could bring our young men and women home, it's the right thing to do. And we'll do that as well.

BARTIROMO:

It seems like ISIS is moving into a different phase of their operation in Syria and Iraq right now. Fifteen assassinations a month, which are not really reported. We never hear about it. Still dozens of attacks in northern a central Iraq.

The president wants to pull out, obviously, but they've marked their territory still. And isn't it true, Mr. Secretary, that, in fact, in a Pentagon inspector general report just out within the last week even you said, unless we keep the pressure on ISIS, they will retake territory within six to 12 months?

POMPEO:

Yes, I don't -- I'm not -- I'm not sure there's a timeline, but the president's been very clear, we have to keep the pressure on. We have to defend the homeland from these threats, from radical Islamic terrorism. It's not just ISIS. There are al Qaeda remnants. There are groups by names that the American people wouldn't recognize all over the world who are

intent on the destruction of the United States and taking down our democracy. President Trump has been unambiguous about his commitment to using American power to protect the American people from these threats. And I'm confident that we'll continue to do so.

BARTIROMO:

What about the oil fields? Is it -- isn't it true that just looking at the Syrian oil fields where right now the Americans and the allies control 60 to 70 percent of those fields? If we pull out, doesn't that give ISIS the opportunity to once again sell that oil and fund their terrorist operations everywhere, even the air space, the same thing?

POMPEO:

I don't think that will happen. Remember the challenge in Syria. We took over from an administration who had refused to act inside of that country to keep America safe. They put out a red line and Assad continued to use chemical weapons. That was a mistake. It put us in a very difficult position when we took office.

Today, Iran and Russia are important players there and we've worked diligently to take down the caliphate, to reduce the risk from ISIS and now have a political process in which we are seeing to find a resolution so that the some 6 million plus people who have been displaced from Syria can return home and we can take down the violence level and begin to build back Syria.

BARTIROMO:

So what about those oil fields? If we were to pull -- when we do pull out, where does those oil fields go in terms of ownership?

POMPEO:

I -- I am -- I am confident we will make sure that ISIS doesn't have access to those oil fields.

BARTIROMO:

The same goes for the air space. If we do pull out, sooner rather than later, does that open up the opportunity for Russia to control that air space?

POMPEO:

We're in conversations even as we speak about the -- what the configuration will look like, what it will look like there. We've got folks on the ground talking to the Turks. We've got folks talking down to the Kurds -- talking with the Kurds in Syria. We've also engaged with the Israeli, the Jordanians, all of our partners in the region. We built out an enormous coalition to defeat ISIS. Indeed today there will be 79 country in the building, right here in the State Department, and the president's going to come address them, to talk about the defeat of ISIS. It will be a great opportunity for him to reinforce his messages from the speech last night. But, importantly, to remind the world that America has led this effort and we're going to continue to keep Americans safe by leading.

BARTIROMO:

How concerned are you about Russia's intervention in this whole region? I mean top story in "The Journal" today, Saudi Arabia and its gulf allies backing a formal partnership with a Russia-led group to try to manage the global oil market. They've interfered, it seems like, as a tactical strategy, not just to prop up Syria, but also to continue a foothold in the region to perhaps replace the United States as the most important country outside of the Middle Eastern nations.

POMPEO:

Yes, Vladimir Putin would love that and it's not going to happen under President Trump. The partnerships we've developed throughout the Middle East are deep and strong. In fact, in some cases we've been criticized for that. But these relationships, our relationship with the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the United Arab Emirates, the work we're doing with Egypt, with Jordan, with Israel, all of these countries form an important bulwark for the United States to continue to protect Americans from threats that emanate from the Middle East. I'm very confident that Vladimir Putin's efforts will fail.

BARTIROMO:

So no -- no concern about this deal with gulf allies backing this formal partnership now with Russia?

POMPEO:

I worry about lots of things. I'm very confident we'll be successful. The Middle Eastern countries know that America has been an enormous force for good in the region and will continue to be.

BARTIROMO:

Let me -- let me turn to Saudi Arabia.

Obviously there's been an enormous amount of political opposition now to Saudi Arabia, whether it be in the Congress or even from the American people post the Khashoggi murder. Is this impacting your ability at this point to move forward with your plans? Is it impacting, for example, the expectations that you wanted to lead a NATO-type arrangement within the Middle East against Iran?

POMPEO:

Those conversations are continuing to advance. We're working with all the countries in the region to develop a historic alliance that will continue to keep Americans safe and folks in the Middle East and throughout Europe as well. I think we'll have a big number of countries announce that they want to be part of this here in the not too distant future and we'll -- we'll develop an outline that -- that isn't reactive. It's in -- in President Trump's way of saying let's plan, let's get this right. We'll develop what strategic framework which will keep the Middle East more stable in the years to come.

BARTIROMO:

Do you believe that you can still do a NATO-type alliance against Iran?

POMPEO:

Absolutely. I'm convinced that we can. I think every country understands that it's in their best interest. Now we've got to work through the details to deliver on that.

BARTIROMO:

Tell me about that. I was speaking with one senator just last night and he said to me, Maria, I'd love to know why the ambassador is still 30 blocks away from the capital when we know Khashoggi called the ambassador to Saudi Arabia and said, I need these wedding papers, and he said, well, go to Istanbul. And basically this senator was suggesting they -- he set him up, why is he still there.

Is there any other action that you're going to take as a result of the Khashoggi murder?

POMPEO:

Maria, I'd say three things. First, you should be careful about the facts that are out there. There --

BARTIROMO:

You don't think Khashoggi called?

POMPEO:

There are lots of facts.

BARTIROMO:

And we know that that's the crown prince's brother.

POMPEO:

I -- I -- I make it my professional business not to talk about American intelligence. You should be careful about the facts that are out there. Not all of them reflect the American understanding of what took place.

Second, we know that there is an important relationship between the United States and the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We're going to do our best to continue to build on that.

Third, with respect to the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, this administration has already taken action. And President Trump himself has said repeatedly, to the extent we continue to develop facts that implicate others in the terrible act, the terrible murder of Jamal Khashoggi, we will continue to hold all of the people connected to it accountable. It's an American commitment. It's deeply consistent with our value set and we'll do it.

BARTIROMO:

I recognize the threat of Iran. So tell us where we are in that regard. Because I know that the United States needs a strong player, that player is Saudi Arabia, to partner against Iran. Can you characterize the situation today?

POMPEO:

Yes, the president talked about this last night. We walked into a deal that had allowed Iran to move forward on its nuclear program. We've pulled out of that deal and we now have begun a serious campaign to work to make sure that the Iranian people had an opportunity to speak. We know that when they do, we know they don't want to be fighting in Syria, in Yemen, in Iraq, in Lebanon. The list is long where Iran misadventurism (ph) is taking place. It's now coming up on the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Forty years yet this week. It has been a tragic failure for the Iranian people and it continues to be the world's largest state sponsor of terror. And we intend to fix each of those things.

BARTIROMO:

Well, this is very important and I know that Saudi Arabia was a partner in that. Are they -- do you still consider them a partner in the fight against Iran and terrorists?

POMPEO:

Oh, of course.

BARTIROMO:

Yes, OK.

The Muslim Brotherhood comes up a lot in terms of being a terrorist organization. Are they?

POMPEO:

So the Muslim Brotherhood has many faces. Most of which are not in the American people's best interest to allow them to advance. Whether the Muslim Brotherhood's efforts take place in Egypt, or in Turkey, or wherever it is in the world, President Trump's been unambiguously clear, terrorism, extremism, in whatever form will be defeated because it's in America's best interest and the security of the American people, in their best interest.

BARTIROMO:

Mr. Secretary, I've -- I've got to ask you about China.

We've spoken a lot on this program about the economic aggressions out of China and we understand the issues around trade and tariffs. What I'd like to get your take on is really the military aggressions. The way China intimidates our allies in the South China Sea, a procedure the Pentagon calls the Gray Zone Operation. They've got 130,000 fishing boats, more so than the United States maritime. They're violating maritime rights. Or the fact they're setting up military bases across the world as far as Djibouti.

What is the campaign or the plan to push back on China's military aggressions?

POMPEO:

For far too long, under Republican and Democrat administrations, we have not taken the national security threat from China remotely seriously. We've seen it now, the president push back on the trade aggression. They're connected, right? The theft of intellectual property has prevented them to grow their military. These are not unrelated issues. So we are responding in an appropriate way on every front.

On the military side, we've seen our military built up, \$700 billion last year, \$715 billion or so this year, so that we have the capacity, the capability to project power into Asia, into the Indo-Pacific.

China conducted more ballistic missile tests last year than the rest of the world combined. This is a serious military threat. America must rise to push back against it. And President Trump's committing to doing that.

BARTIROMO:

The more I look at this story, the scarier I get, frankly, Mr. Secretary, in terms of China and their wherewithal. They are ahead of us on AI. WE -- look, in my opinion, I -- and the experts that I've spoken with, it doesn't matter if they stop stealing our intellectual property tomorrow. It might be too late in terms of where they are. They've using AI, facial recognition with drones. They've got all of this data on people.

Is this part of the conversation on trade? Because earlier we were saying, oh, it's separate. What happened with Huawei is separate than the trade. Can you separate it?

POMPEO:

Yes, these issues are -- are connected. You can have conversations about trade that only address one piece of it. But the American policy more broadly has to make sure that it covers down on each of these threats.

Maria, I've -- I've watched your show. I'm glad you talk about this issue. It's something that was not on the radar screen -
- radar screen of too many Americans.

But I'll -- but I'll say this, and I know you'll hear people who have a different view. I fundamentally believe in America, especially under President Trump's leadership. Whether it's AI or facial recognition, all of the threats that you talk about, the American capacity for innovation, the American capacity to build out technology, the power of the American people, when we unleash that by getting rid of red tape and growing our economy, people come to school here --

BARTIROMO:

Yes.

POMPEO:

Because this is the place that the most creative activity in the world is taking place. I'm very confident that over the next years we will continue to do the things that will push back against China.

BARTIROMO:

I'm happy to hear you say that you can't separate these because of course it's connected. That's what I expected.

Real quick, there are a group of Republicans in Kansas that want you to run for the Senate. Are you going to do it, sir?

POMPEO:

As you can see from this morning, there is plenty on my plate today. I intend to stay the secretary of state as long as President Trump will give me the incredible privilege to represent Americans around the world.

BARTIROMO:

I know you're going to talk about Venezuela later on today. We appreciate your time this morning.

POMPEO:

Thank you, Maria.

BARTIROMO:

Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.
List of Speakers

SECRETARY OF STATE, MIKE POMPEO

MARIA BARTIROMO

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(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

Central Intelligence Agency

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2019 10:57 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
Cc: (b)(6) [redacted]
Subject: RE: Story on Gina Haspel

Exactly - I won't call him. (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2019 10:46 AM
To: [redacted]@ucia.gov (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>
Subject: RE: Story on Gina Haspel

Don't bother he already ran it. (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2019 9:58 AM
To: [redacted]@ucia.gov> (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: FW: Story on Gina Haspel (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

FYI...I'll call Michael.

From: Michael Hirsh [redacted] (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2019 8:22 AM (b)(3) CIAAct
To: [redacted]@ucia.gov> (b)(6)
Subject: Story on Gina Haspel

Hi [redacted] We're running a story today related to the reported questions the president is raising about Dan Coats, and whether his job is in jeopardy. Our story will focus on how Haspel's job seems safe even though she, like Coats, contradicted Trump during the World Threat Assessment testimony--and previously in her assessment of the Khashoggi killing. The story will say that this is in part because very few former CIA officials (with the notable exception of John Brennan) have openly criticized the president in order to protect her job and the institution.

Do you have any comment?

Thanks and best, Mike

--
Michael Hirsh
Senior Correspondent
Foreign Policy
[redacted] (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From:

Sent:

Wednesday, November 07, 2018 11:24 AM

To:

'Miller, Greg'

(b)(3) CIAAct

Cc: (b)(3) CIAAct

Subject: (b)(6)

RE: do you have a couple minutes

Sure Greg. I'll give you a call now. Best, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Miller, Greg <(b)(6)> (b)(3) CIAAct

Sent: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 10:05 AM (b)(6)

To: @ucia.gov>

Subject: do you have a couple minutes

for a Khashoggi related Q

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

on my cell today: (b)(6)

Greg Miller
National Security Correspondent
The Washington Post

(b)(6) w
m

From: Michael Hernandez (b)(6) on behalf of Michael Hernandez
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 6:40 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Haspel to Turkey (b)(6)

Hi all,

This is Michael Hernandez with Turkey's Anadolu Agency. Sorry to bother you late into the evening but can you confirm the director is en route to Turkey regarding the Khashoggi case?

Any information you could provide on the matter would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Michael Hernandez
Washington Correspondent
Anadolu Agency

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From: Herridge, Catherine [REDACTED] (b)(6) [REDACTED] on behalf of Herridge, Catherine
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 10:48 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct [REDACTED] (b)(3) [REDACTED]
Subject: (b)(6) Khashoggi report

Good morning

For our planning, if a report is released would it come through either of your offices? Or anticipate State or White House?

Thx

Catherine

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From: Nauert, Heather N <NauertHN@state.gov> on behalf of Nauert, Heather N
Sent: (b)(3) CIAAct Saturday, November 17, 2018 11:37 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]; Greenan, Robert J; 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC'; Palladino, Robert J
Cc: (b)(6) Raines, Robert A.; 'Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC'; 'Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC'; 'Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC'; Kissel, Mary E (S); Buangan, Richard L
Subject: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted] pls call me back
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov>
Date: November 16, 2018 at 7:23:58 PM EST
To: Greenan, Robert J <GreenanRJ@state.gov>, 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' [redacted] (b)(6)
Palladino, Robert J [redacted] (b)(6)
Cc: Raines, Robert A. [redacted] (b)(6) 'Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC' [redacted] (b)(6)
'Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC' <Garrett.C.Marquis@nsc.eop.gov>, 'Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC'
[redacted] (b)(6), Kissel, Mary E (S) <KisselME2@state.gov>, Buangan, Richard L <BuanganRL@state.gov>, Nauert, Heather N <NauertHN@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

Thank you, Robert. We've engaged with about 20 outlets since the story broke – we're providing no guidance and declining to comment.

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Greenan, Robert J <GreenanRJ@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 7:17 PM
To: [redacted]@ucia.gov>; 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' [redacted] (b)(6) Palladino, Robert J <PalladinoRJ@state.gov>
Cc: Raines, Robert A. [redacted] (b)(6) 'Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC' [redacted] (b)(6)
'Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC' [redacted] (b)(6), 'Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC'
[redacted] (b)(6); Kissel, Mary E (S) <KisselME2@state.gov>; Buangan, Richard L <BuanganRL@state.gov>; Nauert, Heather N <NauertHN@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

[redacted] (b)(5)

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone. (b)(3) CIAAct
From: [redacted] (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 6:24 PM
To: Greenan, Robert J; 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC'; Palladino, Robert J
Cc: Raines, Robert A.; 'Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC'; 'Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC'; 'Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC'; Kissel, Mary E (S)
Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

The story just published. Here is the link<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/cia-concludes-saudi-crown-prince-ordered-jamal-khashoggis-assassination/2018/11/16/98c89fe6-e9b2-11e8-a939-9469f1166f9d_story.html?utm_term=.1aa6916dbd6b>.

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 6:01 PM

To: 'Greenan, Robert J' <GreenanRJ@state.gov>; 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' <[REDACTED] (b)(6)>

Palladino, Robert J <PalladinoRJ@state.gov>

Cc: Raines, Robert A. [REDACTED] (b)(6); Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC [REDACTED] (b)(6); Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC [REDACTED] (b)(6); Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC [REDACTED] (b)(6); Kissel, Mary E (S) <KisselME2@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

Hi Robert,

Thank you for including Mary. I don't have any further updates since you and I spoke; we're still expecting the story to publish this evening. I'll keep everyone on this chain apprised.

Thanks again, [REDACTED] (b)(3) CIAAct
[REDACTED] (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: Greenan, Robert J <GreenanRJ@state.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 5:37 PM

To: [REDACTED] @ucia.gov>; 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' <[REDACTED] (b)(6)>; Palladino, Robert J <PalladinoRJ@state.gov>

Cc: Raines, Robert A. [REDACTED] (b)(6); Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC [REDACTED] (b)(6); Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC [REDACTED] (b)(6); Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC [REDACTED] (b)(6); Kissel, Mary E (S) <KisselME2@state.gov>

Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6) [REDACTED] I am adding in Mary Kissel to this chain. Mary is a Senior Advisor for Comms to the Secretary. I briefed her on the story. [REDACTED] (b)(5) Please keep her in the loop, too, as the story comes out.

Thank you, Robert

Official [REDACTED] (b)(3) CIAAct
UNCLASSIFIED [REDACTED] (b)(6)

From: [REDACTED] @ucia.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 1:48 PM

To: 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' [REDACTED] (b)(6); Palladino, Robert J <PalladinoRJ@state.gov>;

Greenan, Robert J <GreenanRJ@state.gov>

Cc: Raines, Robert A. [REDACTED] (b)(6); Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC [REDACTED] (b)(6); Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC [REDACTED] (b)(6); Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

Thank you, Lauren, for your email.

Robert and Robert: Please feel free to give me a call to discuss further.

(b)(3) CIAAct

Thanks again, (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 1:24 PM

To: @ucia.gov>>; Palladino, Robert J

<PalladinoRJ@state.gov<mailto:PalladinoRJ@state.gov>>; GreenanRJ@state.gov<mailto:GreenanRJ@state.gov>

Cc: Raines, Robert A. EOP/NSC (b)(6); Weik, Tonia N.

EOP/NSC (b)(6); Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC

(b)(6)

Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC

(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

Subject: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

Hi Robert and Robert, (b)(6)

Please connect with at CIA, cc'd, ASAP on a story that's about to drop on Khashoggi. Her number (b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(5)

Thank you!

Lauren

Lauren Ehram

Director for Strategic Communications

Office of Strategic Communications

White House National Security Council

(b)(6)

From: Katrina Manson [REDACTED] (b)(6) on behalf of Katrina Manson
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:01 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct [REDACTED]
Subject: (b)(6) Out of office -- RE: FT qu on recordings and Mr Khashoggi

I am out of the office on Wed and Thurs; back Fri,

Thanks,
Katrina

--

Katrina Manson

US Foreign Policy and Defense Correspondent
Washington DC
Financial Times

Cell + [REDACTED] (b)(6) [REDACTED]
twitter: @KatrinaManson
instagram.com/katrinamanson

--

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From: White House Press Office (b)(6)
on behalf of White House Press Office
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2018 5:22 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: (b)(6) Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, 10/29/2018, #102

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 29, 2018

PRESS BRIEFING
BY PRESS SECRETARY SARAH SANDERS

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

2:27 P.M. EDT

MS. SANDERS: Good afternoon. I want to begin today with a few words about the heinous killing of 11 Jewish Americans at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on Saturday.

As you know, the shooter is in custody, and the FBI is on the scene leading the investigation with the support of state and local law enforcement.

This atrocity was a chilling act of mass murder. It was an act of hatred. And above all, it was an act of evil. Anti-Semitism is a plague to humanity, and it is responsible for many of the worst horrors in human history.

We all have a duty to confront anti-Semitism in all its forms, and everywhere and anywhere it appears.

The American people reject hatred, bigotry, prejudice, and violence. We are a nation that believes in religious liberty, tolerance, and respect. And we are a people who cherish the dignity of every human life.

Today, America grieves for the precious lives that were cruelly stolen. Our hearts ache for every person who lost a loved one.

The 11 Jewish Americans who were horribly murdered represented the very best of our nation. They were brothers and sisters who looked out for each other. They were doctors who cared for citizens in need. They were proud grandparents who taught their grandchildren to value faith, family, and country. And they were the religious heart of the Tree of Life community.

Our nation mourns the loss of these extraordinary Americans, and we also pray for those who were wounded. Our hearts are with the four brave police officers who were shot and injured while trying to stop the attack. We thank God for these officers and for every member of law enforcement who responded swiftly and bravely.

In the wake of the attack, we have witnessed Americans of every faith and tradition coming together to mourn with their fellow citizens to support one another and to stand in solidarity with America's Jewish community.

The President cherishes the American Jewish community for everything it stands for and contributes to our country. He adores Jewish Americans as part of his own family.

The President is the grandfather of several Jewish grandchildren. His daughter is a Jewish American, and his son-in-law is a descendent of Holocaust survivors.

Tomorrow, the President and First Lady will travel to Pennsylvania to express the support of the American people and grieve with the Pittsburgh community.

And with that, I will take your questions.

Jon.

Q Sarah, the President said over the weekend that he could tone up his rhetoric. What does he mean by that? And does he have any concern at all that his words could inspire or provoke troubled people to do awful things?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly the President wants, in moments where our country is hurting, like we've seen in the last several days, to find ways to bring our country together. And we've seen him do exactly that.

However, the President is going to continue to draw contrast -- particularly as we go into the final days of an election -- the differences between the two parties, particularly on policy differences. You'll continue to see him make that contrast.

But he has certainly, I think, found those moments to bring our country together and certainly focus on some of the things that all of us can support and all of us can condemn as well.

Q But he's also harshly attacked some of the very people that received those pipe bombs, and this morning suggesting that the news media is responsible for the anger in the country.

How does he do that when, in the case of the pipe bomber, this was somebody who went to Trump rallies, this is somebody who had a van covered with attacks on the media and praise for the President? The shooter in Pittsburgh is somebody who was provoked, it seems, by the caravan the President has spent so much time talking about. Why is he out there -- when you say he's trying to unite the country, why is he out there making these attacks?

MS. SANDERS: Jonathan, the very first thing that the President did was condemn the attacks, both in Pittsburgh and in the pipe bombs. The very first thing the media did was blame the President and make him responsible for these ridiculous acts. That is outrageous that that would be the very first reaction of so many people across this country.

Q I'm not blaming the President.

MS. SANDERS: I'm not finished. The only person responsible for carrying out either of these heinous acts were the individuals who carried them out. It's not the President no more than it was Bernie Sanders's fault for the individual who shot up a baseball field of congressional Republicans. You can't start putting the responsibility of individuals on anybody but the individual who carries out the crime.

Q But why is the President suggesting it's the news media? The President is the one placing blame here.

MS. SANDERS: No, the President is not placing blame.

Q It's what he did this morning.

MS. SANDERS: The President is not responsible for these acts. Again, the very first action that the President did was condemn these heinous acts. The very first thing that the media did was condemn the President, and go after and try to place blame not just on the President, but everybody that works in this administration. The major news networks' first public statement was to blame the President and myself included. I mean, that is outrageous than anybody other than the individual who carried out the crime would hold that responsibility.

Steve.

Q Sarah, what's it going to take to stop these killings from happening over and over and over again?

MS. SANDERS: You know, I think if we had a good answer to that, I think everybody in the country would support it. If anybody knows the answer, I think certainly this administration would be all ears. The President spends every single minute of every single day looking for the best ways to protect the safety and security of Americans, and we're going to continue to do that.

John.

Q Can I add just a second thing? Is the President going to give a speech on immigration this week? And what's your thinking about options in terms of closing the border?

MS. SANDERS: We'll keep you posted if there's any scheduling announcement on an address on that topic. I'm not aware of that at this point in time.

Q Eleven Jewish leaders in the Pittsburgh area have said that the President's visit is not welcome unless and until he denounces fully and forthrightly white nationalism. Does the White House believe this President has done enough to denounce white nationalism?

MS. SANDERS: The President has denounced racism, hatred, and bigotry in all forms, on a number of occasions. We'll continue to do that. I'm doing it here today. And I would also say, at the same time, that some individuals -- they're grieving, they're hurting. The President wants to be there to show the support of this administration for the Jewish community. The rabbi said that he is welcome as well. And certainly, we want to show our support for those individuals.

Q If I could just follow that up. I know that there is another meeting this morning about what to do about the border. You're thinking about an executive action, maybe some sort of regulatory action. Is one of the options being discussed making it impossible for anybody to claim asylum unless they enter through a port of entry? So that would mean that anybody who crosses the border illegally would not be able to make a valid claim of asylum?

MS. SANDERS: There are a lot of options that are being discussed right now. The number-one priority is looking for ways to secure our borders. We'd love for Democrats in Congress to actually help step up and do their job, and help us do that. If they don't, and they're unwilling to do -- as they've shown in the past that they are -- then we're looking at administrative actions that will help and allow us to do so.

Raquel.

Q Sarah, thank you very much. About the Brazilian election -- the State Department repeated today that a commitment to promote human rights and democracy will continue to guide the relationship with Brazil. However, the Brazilian President-elect, Bolsonaro, has made very controversial comments about minorities. The opposition defended the military declaration in Brazil.

My question is if the White House plans to address this and ask assurances from the government -- the incoming government in Brazil -- that they will protect human rights and democracy in Brazil.

And another question: What do you think about these comparisons that a lot of people say that --

MS. SANDERS: Let me address the first thing.

Q Sure.

MS. SANDERS: First, we promote human rights all over the world. We value our longstanding relationship with Brazil, and we want to continue to be able to work with them, and we'll see what happens from there.

And your second question?

Q Okay, so what do you think about these comparisons? A lot of people are calling Bolsonaro the "Trump of the Tropics." And if President Trump plans to invite Bolsonaro to the White House, or if he has any plans to go to Brazil anytime soon, maybe attend Bolsonaro's inauguration?

MS. SANDERS: There's only one Donald Trump, in my opinion.

Steven, go ahead.

Q I'd like to follow up on Jon's question about the caravan. The President has used the word "invasion" to describe this caravan. That's the same word that is mentioned in the Constitution three times -- "invasion" -- with respect to the powers of the federal government to repel invasions.

So my question is, have there been any discussions here with respect to that about the fact that the Constitution provides for, for example, the suspension of habeas corpus to repel an invasion if the public safety requires it? Is the President talking about potentially ignoring posse comitatus by having the military go down? There's a provision in the law that allows for a constitutional exemption. Is that in any way under consideration?

MS. SANDERS: We're looking at a number of different options. I know that the Department of Defense is holding a press conference this afternoon at 4 o'clock to talk about some of the actions that they'll be taking. I would encourage you to tune into that.

Q That's not a "no" to my question. It has not been ruled out? Those are options on the table?

MS. SANDERS: Look, I'm not going to get into specific policies that we're considering. There's a number of actions that we're looking at taking. When we're ready to make an announcement on that front, we'll let you know.

Jon.

Q Thanks a lot, Sarah. The midterms are eight days from today. And we often get -- from both parties -- what the midterms actually mean the day after the election. So I wanted to ask you what the midterms mean, before the election. The President, on October the 18th, in Mississippi, said, "I'm not on the ticket. But I am on the ticket, because this is also a referendum [on] me." Is that right? Is this midterm election a referendum on the President?

MS. SANDERS: Look, I can't get into specifics that will impact the election. But I can tell you that the President wants to see more people that support his policies elected than not.

Phil.

Q Sarah, it's now been four weeks since Jamal Khashoggi was murdered inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. The President said early on that, if the Saudis are found responsible, there would be "severe punishment." That's his word. It's now obvious to the world that Khashoggi was murdered, it was premeditated, it was by the Saudis. Why has there been no action?

MS. SANDERS: Look, the President met last week with CIA Director Gina Haspel, after having gathered additional intelligence on her overseas trip. And the administration is weighing different options, and we'll make an announcement about what the decision of that action is.

Q But there's been no action, Sarah. Is he considering any actual action?

MS. SANDERS: Like I just said, the administration is considering what action we will take moving forward based on that information and the briefing that the President received last week.

Jill.

Q Sarah, two things for you. I want to go back to the tone in question, because the President said he was planning to tone down his rhetoric this week. But at his rallies since the suspicious packages began being mailed, the President has called out Maxine Waters by name at his rallies. He's stood there as his supporters chant "Lock her up," in reference to Hillary Clinton, who he continues to call "Crooked Hillary Clinton." Will the President stop using that kind of language in light of the fact that these individuals were targeted by this attack?

MS. SANDERS: The President is going to continue to draw contrasts. Let's not forget that these same Democrats have repeatedly attacked the President, whether it was Eric Holder saying "Kick them when they're down"; whether it was Hillary Clinton saying "You can't be civil until Democrats have control of Congress"; or whether it was Maxine Waters, who encouraged her supporters to get up not just in the President's face, but all administration officials' faces.

Those actions were from those Democrats. The President is going to continue to fight back when these individuals not only attack him, but attack members of his administration and supporters of his administration.

Q And then (inaudible) follow up on something else. Why does the President feel like it's necessary to send active-duty troops to the border when he's already sent National Guardsmen down there who are doing the exact same job as the active-duty troops would be able to do?

MS. SANDERS: The President's number-one job and number-one priority is to protect the safety and security of Americans, and he's going to do what he deems necessary in order to do that. For specifics regarding that, I'd encourage you to tune into the press conference this afternoon.

John.

Q Thank you, Sarah. Two brief questions. The first, a follow-up about the question on Brazil. Up until a few months ago, you used to give us readouts of the President's calls with world leaders, including congratulatory calls to newly elected leaders such as President Macron, Chancellor Merkel. Did the President, or does the President plan to, make a call to President-elect Bolsonaro?

MS. SANDERS: He did. And he spoke with him last night. I actually sent a note to the White House press pool. If you didn't receive that, I'll make sure that you do after the briefing is over.

Q All right. My other question, Sarah --

MS. SANDERS: Sorry. Second question.

Q -- is this: With the election eight days away, some Republicans, such as Mr. Hugin, the nominee for the Senate in New Jersey, do not mention the President at all, do not invoke his name or image. Others, such as Mr. DeWine -- running for governor of Ohio -- have him in brochures and pictures. Is the President aware that some candidates run against him? And is this going to enter into his decision where to go in the final days?

MS. SANDERS: That's a decision for individual candidates to make. I think the President has an incredible story to tell. He's had a historic first two years -- a number of successes that I think any Republican running for office should be proud of.

Jim.

Q Sarah, yeah, I wanted to ask you -- David Lapan, who was a spokesperson over at DHS under General Kelly -- Chief of Staff Kelly -- a former Marine who worked at the Pentagon, tweeted this morning: "I dealt w/ the news media nearly every day. I know quite a bit about the press and know this -- they are NOT the enemy of the American people." Shouldn't you reserve the term "enemy" for people who are actually the enemy of the United States, rather than journalists?

MS. SANDERS: The President is not referencing all media. He's talking about the growing amount of fake news that exists in the country, and the President is calling that out.

Q May I ask a follow-up?

Q (Inaudible.)

MS. SANDERS: Sure. Go ahead.

Q May I ask a follow-up, please? May I ask a follow-up, please?

MS. SANDERS: Go ahead, Jim.

Q Since you mentioned that, the President said this morning, "The Fake News Media, the true Enemy of the People, must stop the open & obvious hostility & report the news accurately & fairly." Can you state for the record which outlets that you and the President regard as the enemy of the people?

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Q -- call Andrew Gillum a "thief." Why did the President, in his tweet, call Andrew Gillum a "thief"?

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And your second question?

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MS. SANDERS: The President did speak with Governor Cuomo of New York last week. And as of this time, there aren't any plans for other calls. If there are, we'll let you know.

Q Just one quick one --

MS. SANDERS: Hallie, go ahead. Last question. Sorry.

Q One more about Jamal Khashoggi. Can you tell us if CIA Director Haspel actually heard the tape that the Turks allegedly have proving that he was killed in the embassy -- in the consulate?

MS. SANDERS: I can't confirm or deny the specifics of the intelligence that Director Haspel saw while she was there.

Last question. Hallie, go ahead.

Q Thanks, Sarah. So throughout the course of this briefing, you have repeatedly defended the President's attacks on his political opponents as valid because the midterms are coming up. So at what point --

MS. SANDERS: No.

Q -- does the White House --

MS. SANDERS: Not because of the midterms. I've defended the President --

Q You said you've supported drawing contrast.

MS. SANDERS: I've defended the President fighting back when he's regularly attacked. There's a difference. It doesn't matter if there's a midterm or not, the President is going to defend himself, and he's going to fight back.

Q From a political perspective, right? You're making that point.

MS. SANDERS: From any perspective.

Q But at what point does a national tragedy take precedence over the President needing to punch back? If not now, when?

MS. SANDERS: I think you saw the President do exactly that in the wake of a national tragedy, not just this week, but every time our country has experienced the type of heartache and pain that we have over the last week.

This is a President who's risen to that occasion and worked to bring our country together in a number of occasions -- whether it's the hurricanes, whether it's the Las Vegas shooting, whether it was the Pittsburgh shooting. All horrible, horrible tragedies that this country has experienced. And this President has come out, condemned the attacks when it is caused by an individual, and tried to look for ways to provide and bring the country together when it was a natural disaster.

Q But both he and you have also acknowledged that, in the next breath, after he calls for unity, he does talk about division and what you describe as "drawing contrast." Is he incapable of -- in the words of some -- "toning it down" and toning down the rhetoric?

MS. SANDERS: Again, I think the President has had a number of moments of bringing the country together. Once again, I'll remind you that the very first thing --

Q But when would you say those were?

MS. SANDERS: -- the President did was condemn the attacker. And the very first thing --

Q And the second thing he did was go after the media and press.

MS. SANDERS: -- the media did was blame the President.

You guys have a huge responsibility to play in the divisive nature of this country, when 90 percent of the coverage of everything this President does is negative, despite the fact that the country is doing extremely well, despite the fact that the President is delivering on exactly what he said he was going to do if elected. And he got elected by an overwhelming majority of 63 million Americans who came out and supported him, and wanted to see his policies enacted.

He's delivered on that. He's delivered on the promises he's made. And, if anything, I think it is sad and divisive the way that every single thing that comes out of the media -- 90 percent of what comes out of the media's mouth is negative about this President, despite the fact that the economy is booming, despite the fact he said he would fix the trade deals. And he's done exactly that --

Q But Sarah --

MS. SANDERS: He said he would defeat ISIS and he has. The President has been delivering day in and day out. And I think it would be nice if, every once and a while, we could focus on a few of the positive things the President has done, instead of just attacking him.

Q Sarah, more broadly, though --

MS. SANDERS: Thanks so much, guys. Have a great day.

END 2:50 P.M. EDT

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on behalf of White House Press Office
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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 29, 2018

PRESS BRIEFING
BY PRESS SECRETARY SARAH SANDERS

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

2:27 P.M. EDT

MS. SANDERS: Good afternoon. I want to begin today with a few words about the heinous killing of 11 Jewish Americans at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on Saturday.

As you know, the shooter is in custody, and the FBI is on the scene leading the investigation with the support of state and local law enforcement.

This atrocity was a chilling act of mass murder. It was an act of hatred. And above all, it was an act of evil. Anti-Semitism is a plague to humanity, and it is responsible for many of the worst horrors in human history.

We all have a duty to confront anti-Semitism in all its forms, and everywhere and anywhere it appears.

The American people reject hatred, bigotry, prejudice, and violence. We are a nation that believes in religious liberty, tolerance, and respect. And we are a people who cherish the dignity of every human life.

Today, America grieves for the precious lives that were cruelly stolen. Our hearts ache for every person who lost a loved one.

The 11 Jewish Americans who were horribly murdered represented the very best of our nation. They were brothers and sisters who looked out for each other. They were doctors who cared for citizens in need. They were proud grandparents who taught their grandchildren to value faith, family, and country. And they were the religious heart of the Tree of Life community.

Our nation mourns the loss of these extraordinary Americans, and we also pray for those who were wounded. Our hearts are with the four brave police officers who were shot and injured while trying to stop the attack. We thank God for these officers and for every member of law enforcement who responded swiftly and bravely.

In the wake of the attack, we have witnessed Americans of every faith and tradition coming together to mourn with their fellow citizens to support one another and to stand in solidarity with America's Jewish community.

The President cherishes the American Jewish community for everything it stands for and contributes to our country. He adores Jewish Americans as part of his own family.

The President is the grandfather of several Jewish grandchildren. His daughter is a Jewish American, and his son-in-law is a descendent of Holocaust survivors.

Tomorrow, the President and First Lady will travel to Pennsylvania to express the support of the American people and grieve with the Pittsburgh community.

And with that, I will take your questions.

Jon.

Q Sarah, the President said over the weekend that he could tone up his rhetoric. What does he mean by that? And does he have any concern at all that his words could inspire or provoke troubled people to do awful things?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly the President wants, in moments where our country is hurting, like we've seen in the last several days, to find ways to bring our country together. And we've seen him do exactly that.

However, the President is going to continue to draw contrast -- particularly as we go into the final days of an election -- the differences between the two parties, particularly on policy differences. You'll continue to see him make that contrast.

But he has certainly, I think, found those moments to bring our country together and certainly focus on some of the things that all of us can support and all of us can condemn as well.

Q But he's also harshly attacked some of the very people that received those pipe bombs, and this morning suggesting that the news media is responsible for the anger in the country.

How does he do that when, in the case of the pipe bomber, this was somebody who went to Trump rallies, this is somebody who had a van covered with attacks on the media and praise for the President? The shooter in Pittsburgh is somebody who was provoked, it seems, by the caravan the President has spent so much time talking about. Why is he out there -- when you say he's trying to unite the country, why is he out there making these attacks?

MS. SANDERS: Jonathan, the very first thing that the President did was condemn the attacks, both in Pittsburgh and in the pipe bombs. The very first thing the media did was blame the President and make him responsible for these ridiculous acts. That is outrageous that that would be the very first reaction of so many people across this country.

Q I'm not blaming the President.

MS. SANDERS: I'm not finished. The only person responsible for carrying out either of these heinous acts were the individuals who carried them out. It's not the President no more than it was Bernie Sanders's fault for the individual who shot up a baseball field of congressional Republicans. You can't start putting the responsibility of individuals on anybody but the individual who carries out the crime.

Q But why is the President suggesting it's the news media? The President is the one placing blame here.

MS. SANDERS: No, the President is not placing blame.

Q It's what he did this morning.

MS. SANDERS: The President is not responsible for these acts. Again, the very first action that the President did was condemn these heinous acts. The very first thing that the media did was condemn the President, and go after and try to place blame not just on the President, but everybody that works in this administration. The major news networks' first public statement was to blame the President and myself included. I mean, that is outrageous than anybody other than the individual who carried out the crime would hold that responsibility.

Steve.

Q Sarah, what's it going to take to stop these killings from happening over and over and over again?

MS. SANDERS: You know, I think if we had a good answer to that, I think everybody in the country would support it. If anybody knows the answer, I think certainly this administration would be all ears. The President spends every single minute of every single day looking for the best ways to protect the safety and security of Americans, and we're going to continue to do that.

John.

Q Can I add just a second thing? Is the President going to give a speech on immigration this week? And what's your thinking about options in terms of closing the border?

MS. SANDERS: We'll keep you posted if there's any scheduling announcement on an address on that topic. I'm not aware of that at this point in time.

Q Eleven Jewish leaders in the Pittsburgh area have said that the President's visit is not welcome unless and until he denounces fully and forthrightly white nationalism. Does the White House believe this President has done enough to denounce white nationalism?

MS. SANDERS: The President has denounced racism, hatred, and bigotry in all forms, on a number of occasions. We'll continue to do that. I'm doing it here today. And I would also say, at the same time, that some individuals -- they're grieving, they're hurting. The President wants to be there to show the support of this administration for the Jewish community. The rabbi said that he is welcome as well. And certainly, we want to show our support for those individuals.

Q If I could just follow that up. I know that there is another meeting this morning about what to do about the border. You're thinking about an executive action, maybe some sort of regulatory action. Is one of the options being discussed making it impossible for anybody to claim asylum unless they enter through a port of entry? So that would mean that anybody who crosses the border illegally would not be able to make a valid claim of asylum?

MS. SANDERS: There are a lot of options that are being discussed right now. The number-one priority is looking for ways to secure our borders. We'd love for Democrats in Congress to actually help step up and do their job, and help us do that. If they don't, and they're unwilling to do -- as they've shown in the past that they are -- then we're looking at administrative actions that will help and allow us to do so.

Raquel.

Q Sarah, thank you very much. About the Brazilian election -- the State Department repeated today that a commitment to promote human rights and democracy will continue to guide the relationship with Brazil. However, the Brazilian President-elect, Bolsonaro, has made very controversial comments about minorities. The opposition defended the military declaration in Brazil.

My question is if the White House plans to address this and ask assurances from the government -- the incoming government in Brazil -- that they will protect human rights and democracy in Brazil.

And another question: What do you think about these comparisons that a lot of people say that --

MS. SANDERS: Let me address the first thing.

Q Sure.

MS. SANDERS: First, we promote human rights all over the world. We value our longstanding relationship with Brazil, and we want to continue to be able to work with them, and we'll see what happens from there.

And your second question?

Q Okay, so what do you think about these comparisons? A lot of people are calling Bolsonaro the "Trump of the Tropics." And if President Trump plans to invite Bolsonaro to the White House, or if he has any plans to go to Brazil anytime soon, maybe attend Bolsonaro's inauguration?

MS. SANDERS: There's only one Donald Trump, in my opinion.

Steven, go ahead.

Q I'd like to follow up on Jon's question about the caravan. The President has used the word "invasion" to describe this caravan. That's the same word that is mentioned in the Constitution three times -- "invasion" -- with respect to the powers of the federal government to repel invasions.

So my question is, have there been any discussions here with respect to that about the fact that the Constitution provides for, for example, the suspension of habeas corpus to repel an invasion if the public safety requires it? Is the President talking about potentially ignoring posse comitatus by having the military go down? There's a provision in the law that allows for a constitutional exemption. Is that in any way under consideration?

MS. SANDERS: We're looking at a number of different options. I know that the Department of Defense is holding a press conference this afternoon at 4 o'clock to talk about some of the actions that they'll be taking. I would encourage you to tune into that.

Q That's not a "no" to my question. It has not been ruled out? Those are options on the table?

MS. SANDERS: Look, I'm not going to get into specific policies that we're considering. There's a number of actions that we're looking at taking. When we're ready to make an announcement on that front, we'll let you know.

Jon.

Q Thanks a lot, Sarah. The midterms are eight days from today. And we often get -- from both parties -- what the midterms actually mean the day after the election. So I wanted to ask you what the midterms mean, before the election. The President, on October the 18th, in Mississippi, said, "I'm not on the ticket. But I am on the ticket, because this is also a referendum [on] me." Is that right? Is this midterm election a referendum on the President?

MS. SANDERS: Look, I can't get into specifics that will impact the election. But I can tell you that the President wants to see more people that support his policies elected than not.

Phil.

Q Sarah, it's now been four weeks since Jamal Khashoggi was murdered inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. The President said early on that, if the Saudis are found responsible, there would be "severe punishment." That's his word. It's now obvious to the world that Khashoggi was murdered, it was premeditated, it was by the Saudis. Why has there been no action?

MS. SANDERS: Look, the President met last week with CIA Director Gina Haspel, after having gathered additional intelligence on her overseas trip. And the administration is weighing different options, and we'll make an announcement about what the decision of that action is.

Q But there's been no action, Sarah. Is he considering any actual action?

MS. SANDERS: Like I just said, the administration is considering what action we will take moving forward based on that information and the briefing that the President received last week.

Jill.

Q Sarah, two things for you. I want to go back to the tone in question, because the President said he was planning to tone down his rhetoric this week. But at his rallies since the suspicious packages began being mailed, the President has called out Maxine Waters by name at his rallies. He's stood there as his supporters chant "Lock her up," in reference to Hillary Clinton, who he continues to call "Crooked Hillary Clinton." Will the President stop using that kind of language in light of the fact that these individuals were targeted by this attack?

MS. SANDERS: The President is going to continue to draw contrasts. Let's not forget that these same Democrats have repeatedly attacked the President, whether it was Eric Holder saying "Kick them when they're down"; whether it was Hillary Clinton saying "You can't be civil until Democrats have control of Congress"; or whether it was Maxine Waters, who encouraged her supporters to get up not just in the President's face, but all administration officials' faces.

Those actions were from those Democrats. The President is going to continue to fight back when these individuals not only attack him, but attack members of his administration and supporters of his administration.

Q And then (inaudible) follow up on something else. Why does the President feel like it's necessary to send active-duty troops to the border when he's already sent National Guardsmen down there who are doing the exact same job as the active-duty troops would be able to do?

MS. SANDERS: The President's number-one job and number-one priority is to protect the safety and security of Americans, and he's going to do what he deems necessary in order to do that. For specifics regarding that, I'd encourage you to tune into the press conference this afternoon.

John.

Q Thank you, Sarah. Two brief questions. The first, a follow-up about the question on Brazil. Up until a few months ago, you used to give us readouts of the President's calls with world leaders, including congratulatory calls to newly elected leaders such as President Macron, Chancellor Merkel. Did the President, or does the President plan to, make a call to President-elect Bolsonaro?

MS. SANDERS: He did. And he spoke with him last night. I actually sent a note to the White House press pool. If you didn't receive that, I'll make sure that you do after the briefing is over.

Q All right. My other question, Sarah --

MS. SANDERS: Sorry. Second question.

Q -- is this: With the election eight days away, some Republicans, such as Mr. Hugin, the nominee for the Senate in New Jersey, do not mention the President at all, do not invoke his name or image. Others, such as Mr. DeWine -- running for governor of Ohio -- have him in brochures and pictures. Is the President aware that some candidates run against him? And is this going to enter into his decision where to go in the final days?

MS. SANDERS: That's a decision for individual candidates to make. I think the President has an incredible story to tell. He's had a historic first two years -- a number of successes that I think any Republican running for office should be proud of.

Jim.

Q Sarah, yeah, I wanted to ask you -- David Lapan, who was a spokesperson over at DHS under General Kelly -- Chief of Staff Kelly -- a former Marine who worked at the Pentagon, tweeted this morning: "I dealt w/ the news media nearly every day. I know quite a bit about the press and know this -- they are NOT the enemy of the American people." Shouldn't you reserve the term "enemy" for people who are actually the enemy of the United States, rather than journalists?

MS. SANDERS: The President is not referencing all media. He's talking about the growing amount of fake news that exists in the country, and the President is calling that out.

Q May I ask a follow-up?

Q (Inaudible.)

MS. SANDERS: Sure. Go ahead.

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MS. SANDERS: Go ahead, Jim.

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MS. SANDERS: Certainly we don't support any type of voter suppression. What we do support is voter integrity. Again, I'm not going to weigh into specifics that have an impact on an election that's a few days away. We'll leave that for the President to lay out that specific case.

Saagar. Saagar, go ahead.

Q Thanks, Sarah. Could you tell us, does the White House currently believe that they have the legal authority to close the southern border? And is it an option that's being explored, with relation to the caravan?

MS. SANDERS: Again, we have a number of options on the table. We're exploring each one of those.

Q But does the White House Counsel believe?

MS. SANDERS: When we have a decision on that, we'll let you know.

Vivian.

Q Thanks, Sarah. Two questions, please. First, last week, we asked the President whether he had called President Obama or any of the others that the bombs were addressed to. And he said, "If they want[ed] me to. But...we'll probably pass." Can you explain why that decision was taken?

MS. SANDERS: The President did speak with Governor Cuomo of New York last week. And as of this time, there aren't any plans for other calls. If there are, we'll let you know.

Q Just one quick one --

MS. SANDERS: Hallie, go ahead. Last question. Sorry.

Q One more about Jamal Khashoggi. Can you tell us if CIA Director Haspel actually heard the tape that the Turks allegedly have proving that he was killed in the embassy -- in the consulate?

MS. SANDERS: I can't confirm or deny the specifics of the intelligence that Director Haspel saw while she was there.

Last question. Hallie, go ahead.

Q Thanks, Sarah. So throughout the course of this briefing, you have repeatedly defended the President's attacks on his political opponents as valid because the midterms are coming up. So at what point --

MS. SANDERS: No.

Q -- does the White House --

MS. SANDERS: Not because of the midterms. I've defended the President --

Q You said you've supported drawing contrast.

MS. SANDERS: I've defended the President fighting back when he's regularly attacked. There's a difference. It doesn't matter if there's a midterm or not, the President is going to defend himself, and he's going to fight back.

Q From a political perspective, right? You're making that point.

MS. SANDERS: From any perspective.

Q But at what point does a national tragedy take precedence over the President needing to punch back? If not now, when?

MS. SANDERS: I think you saw the President do exactly that in the wake of a national tragedy, not just this week, but every time our country has experienced the type of heartache and pain that we have over the last week.

This is a President who's risen to that occasion and worked to bring our country together in a number of occasions -- whether it's the hurricanes, whether it's the Las Vegas shooting, whether it was the Pittsburgh shooting. All horrible, horrible tragedies that this country has experienced. And this President has come out, condemned the attacks when it is caused by an individual, and tried to look for ways to provide and bring the country together when it was a natural disaster.

Q But both he and you have also acknowledged that, in the next breath, after he calls for unity, he does talk about division and what you describe as "drawing contrast." Is he incapable of -- in the words of some -- "toning it down" and toning down the rhetoric?

MS. SANDERS: Again, I think the President has had a number of moments of bringing the country together. Once again, I'll remind you that the very first thing --

Q But when would you say those were?

MS. SANDERS: -- the President did was condemn the attacker. And the very first thing --

Q And the second thing he did was go after the media and press.

MS. SANDERS: -- the media did was blame the President.

You guys have a huge responsibility to play in the divisive nature of this country, when 90 percent of the coverage of everything this President does is negative, despite the fact that the country is doing extremely well, despite the fact that the President is delivering on exactly what he said he was going to do if elected. And he got elected by an overwhelming majority of 63 million Americans who came out and supported him, and wanted to see his policies enacted.

He's delivered on that. He's delivered on the promises he's made. And, if anything, I think it is sad and divisive the way that every single thing that comes out of the media -- 90 percent of what comes out of the media's mouth is negative about this President, despite the fact that the economy is booming, despite the fact he said he would fix the trade deals. And he's done exactly that --

Q But Sarah --

MS. SANDERS: He said he would defeat ISIS and he has. The President has been delivering day in and day out. And I think it would be nice if, every once and a while, we could focus on a few of the positive things the President has done, instead of just attacking him.

Q Sarah, more broadly, though --

MS. SANDERS: Thanks so much, guys. Have a great day.

END 2:50 P.M. EDT

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[The White House]
Office of the Press Secretary
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 27, 2018

PRESS BRIEFING
BY PRESS SECRETARY SARAH SANDERS,
DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL LARRY KUDLOW,
AND NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR AMBASSADOR JOHN BOLTON

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:35 P.M. EST

MS. SANDERS: Good afternoon. Later this week, the President and First Lady will travel to Argentina for the G20 Summit. President Trump's participation in the G20 Summit is a key opportunity to reiterate his commitment to domestic and global economic growth and prosperity, cement relations with other world leaders, and advance a global economic system that is based on fair economic competition and free, fair, and reciprocal trade.

While at the G20, the President and the delegation will interact -- interact with many leaders, including bilateral meetings with the President of Argentina, the President of Russia, the Prime Minister of Japan, and the Chancellor of Germany, and a working dinner with the President of China.

To speak more about the G20 and what the President intends to accomplish, I'd like to welcome to the podium Director of the National Economic Council Larry Kudlow and, following him, National Security Advisor Ambassador John Bolton.

After their remarks, both will be available to take your questions on the G20 and other foreign policy news of the day. And then I'll be back up to take other questions on news of the day. Thanks.

MR. KUDLOW: Thank you, Sarah. Thanks everybody. Let me just walk through some quick themes and then I want to mention some things the President talked -- talked to us just a little while ago.

As Sarah said, G20 -- funny, it's not actually the G20 when we count it up properly. As Ambassador Bolton points out, it's much more than the G20.

Now, in terms of the U.S. positions, we're going to use this as an opportunity to talk about our measures of tax cuts and deregulations, and reskilling and job training, and so forth that have generated significant economic growth and prosperity. And that includes women's economic empowerment.

As Sarah mentioned, free, fair, and reciprocal trade and trade reform. There'll be discussions of infrastructure, finance, and also the U.S. emergence as the dominant energy power in the world today, actually.

In terms of the much-discussed meeting -- it's going to be a dinner meeting between President Trump and President Xi and representatives from both sides. It will be a bilateral. I want to just mention what the President told us a short while ago and that is, in his view, there's a good possibility that a deal can be made and that he is open to that. He is open to that.

But having said that -- some caveats, as always -- certain conditions have to be met with respect to fairness and reciprocities. We've said many times, for example, issues of intellectual property theft must be solved. Forced technology transfers must be solved. Significant tariffs and non-tariff barriers must be solved. Issues of ownership have to be solved.

The President will probably reiterate his view: We want a world, ideally, of zero tariffs, zero non-tariff barriers, and zero subsidies. Now, whether they can through all of that remains to be seen but that's the President's point of view, as I said just a little while ago.

The U.S. is coming to the summit in very good shape. Our economy is quite strong. It's growing at 3 percent over the past year. Second quarter was 4.2. Third quarter was 3.5, perhaps to be revised upwards. We're in a very strong holiday season, so-called "Black Friday." Very strong.

We've had tremendous investments -- business investments, energy investments. Oil prices and gasoline prices are coming down. That helps consumers of course. We're in very good shape.

China, not so good. I'm not here to critique or second-guess the Chinese economy, but most observers believe China to be in a slump, whereas the United States is in a very strong solid position going into this summit.

However, again, to repeat, the President said, there is a good possibility that we can make a deal. And he is open to it. But on the other hand, if these conditions I mentioned a few moments ago are not met and not dealt with -- you know, the President said, look, he's perfectly happy to stand on his tariff policies, which -- 10 percent, the last \$200 billion -- scheduled to go to 25 percent. That's not a certainty, but that's the schedule.

And he has said as recently as yesterday, the day before, if need be -- if things don't work out in this U.S.-China summit meeting, he will invoke another 267-some-odd billion dollars in tariffs. That may not be the first choice. I'm just saying that is his view if we can't get something done.

And things have been moving very slowly between the two countries, until the President himself called President Xi and said, "Let's restart. Let's try to get things going again." And then, since then, he's made positive comments about that. So we will see.

As I said, the key U.S. goals surround growth and prosperity. And you know, our economy is in good shape; theirs is not.

I'll just leave it right there. John, do you want to add stuff to that? Do you want me to take some questions?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Go ahead.

MR. KUDLOW: You sure? Okay, good. Let me take some questions and try to help out on this.

Yes.

Q Mr. Kudlow, I'd like you to address some concerns recently from representatives in Italy and France and Germany who say that we're actually backing away from the national stage and they fear that Russia will be the dominant

economic force in Europe and the Middle East in the coming years. Could you address those concerns, A? And, B, can you tell us a little bit, if you can, about the layoffs at GM?

MR. KUDLOW: Well, I'll talk to you about GM layoffs. Regarding the Russian story, I'm going to leave that to my long-time friend and colleague, John Bolton.

I met with Mary Barra yesterday and we had a lengthy conversation about the layoffs, the cause of the layoffs. It's a great disappointment, obviously.

The President indicated his own disappointment. He believes -- as, frankly, the Prime Minister of Canada, Trudeau, believes -- that the USMCA deal was a great help to the automobile industry and to autoworkers. And, by the way, they made those statements separately.

And yet, GM comes in right after the deal -- by the way, that deal will be signed in Argentina with the U.S. and Canadian representatives. So there's great disappointment there. There's disappointment that it seems like GM would rather build its electric cars in China rather than in the United States.

We are going to be looking at certain subsidies regarding electric cars and others -- whether they should apply or not. I can't say anything final about that, but we're looking into it. Again, that reflects the President's own disappointment regarding these actions.

Ms. Barra told me on the other hand -- I want to be completely fair here -- it's her business -- it may be possible to transfer workers to other plants in Texas and Michigan. I'm not an expert on General Motors. I'm not an analyst -- auto analyst. But that's what she said.

But obviously there's lot of disappointment, even anger. I've heard it, again, from Mr. Trudeau, from President Trump, from Democrats and Republicans.

Q And just to follow up, do you think it's going to adversely affect our economy coming to the Christmas season and after?

MR. KUDLOW: No. I mean, look, I don't want anybody to get laid off. I'm -- I want workers to do very well. I want worker wages to do well, and they are. I mean, that's one of the great things.

You know, there's a certain amount of pessimism that I'm reading about. Maybe it has to do with a -- really, a mild stock market correction. Let's not forget a couple weeks ago. Just on this very point, we had 250,000 new jobs, which was a blockbuster number. Nobody really expected it. With a 3.1 percent yearly gain in wages and a 3.7 percent unemployment rate -- those are very spiffy numbers by any benchmark in any metric.

So again, holiday season layoffs from GM -- brutal. Brutal. All right? Very disappointing. Will it affect the overall economy? I don't think so. I do not think so.

Yes.

Q Yeah, back to the question over the tariffs and -- if these talks with President Xi go nowhere and we move forward with this escalation of the tariffs that you just described -- which, correct me if I'm wrong, would be the biggest addition of tariffs that we've seen in your lifetime -- what will the impact be on the U.S. economy? I mean, you -- and I'm asking -

MR. KUDLOW: That's a long -- that's a long period of time you mentioned. My lifetime.

Q Well, you know, but I -- (laughter). I mean, you have been a committed free trader for almost all of those years.

MR. KUDLOW: Yes.

Q So what will be the impact on the U.S. economy if we see tariffs go up to the degree that you just described?

MR. KUDLOW: You know, we'll see what happens, okay? I don't want to presuppose anything. The President is going to make up his mind after the meeting.

But I will say this: Our economy is in very good shape right now. And when you multiply through whatever numbers you want to use -- \$250 billion or tack on another tranche, which may or may not happen, at a 10 percent tariff rate or more -- it's really just a fraction of our economy. Okay? It's just a fraction of our economy.

I'm not suggesting that there aren't winners and losers in that game. It's a complicated game. But on the other hand, I think we are in far better shape to weather this than the Chinese are.

And I want to say one other thing. I really appreciate your characterization; I am a free trader. But you have to ask yourself -- and this is what President Trump has been talking about -- is it free trade when there is clear evidence of unfair and WTO illegal trading practices by China for several decades? Is that fair? Is that free? Is it free when intellectual property theft occurs or when Chinese ownership of American companies force transference of technology from American companies to the Chinese companies? Is that fair? Or high tariffs on agriculture and industrial supplies, is that fair?

So President Trump is the first President in, I don't know, at least 20 years -- and I'm including Democrats and Republicans -- who not only has made this case but continues to make this case forcefully and to take actions to defend American workers and our overall economy. Other Presidents in both parties have raised the issue and then walked away from it and President Trump obviously doesn't intend to.

You know, this is under the heading, I think, for him, of "Promises made, promises kept." It's something he's talked about for several years and he now continues.

If China will come to the table -- or, in this case, the dinner table -- with some new ideas and some new attitudes and some new cooperation, as the President said, there's a good possibility they can make a deal. He's open to it. So nothing is written in cement or stone. But, again, for a free trader, where's the free trade?

And, for several months now, since I've been here, the President and I have talked about this -- you know, we'd love to see a world of zero tariffs, and zero non-tariff barriers, and zero subsidies. We'd love to see that world. But unfortunately we don't have that world, particularly with respect to China, but not only China. And so he's taking actions that he thinks will get us closer to that world.

We can go around. Yes, please.

Q Thanks. Just another GM question: When the President said yesterday "they better damn well open [up] a new plant there very quickly," was he just venting his frustration? Or does he have some consequences in mind if they don't?

MR. KUDLOW: You know, I'm going to leave that to him. You may find additional announcements coming on that topic.

Some more? Let me go in the back. Yes, ma'am.

Q I wanted to ask you about what Ambassador Cui Tiankai said recently to the Wall Street Journal.

MR. KUDLOW: Who?

Q Ambassador Cui Tiankai, the Chinese Ambassador to the United States.

MR. KUDLOW: Yes.

Q His thought was that there would be a real risk to global -- to the global markets if there wasn't a deal. That they could become fragmented as well. How big are the stakes if you can't reach a deal?

MR. KUDLOW: Look, the ambassador makes a point. Now, if he would do his part or his government would do their part, then we can all make a much better point. That's what President Trump is saying.

I mean, I'll read you the quote again. There's a "good possibility" we can make a deal, and he's open to it. But certain conditions, you know, have to be met. Certain things have to be changed. And the President, again, in the spirit of "Promises made, promises kept," is going to defend, you know, the interests of the American workers and ranchers and small businesses and the economy writ large.

We've -- let me just add one other point to this: The rest of the world agrees with us. I mean, we signed, at the U.N., for example, the trilateral agreement with the EU and the United States and Japan -- worth looking at that document, which outlines, you know, what they call "non-market abuses." Read: China.

Just recently, before the Shanghai conference where President Xi was to give an important speech -- I'm not sure there was much new there. But in any case, just before that conference, with no prodding from the USA, the ambassadors -- the French and German ambassadors to China -- the French and German ambassadors to China wrote a very tough piece going after, again, non-market, unfair, non-reciprocal trading practices. There is broad-based support for the American position here, which is China should change its practices and come into the community of responsible trading nations.

They can do that. Right? They're a major economy right now. It's not like they were 25 or 30 years ago. We would welcome it. The President has said he's happy to make a deal, but they have to take certain actions and give certain assurances. So, you know.

Q Director, does that mean you'll spend the G20 getting that support around your position from other countries at the G20?

MR. KUDLOW: I'm sure we will. I'm sure we will. We have in many other forms. It's got more -- I want Ambassador -- I want Ambassador -- yes, please.

Q Mr. Kudlow, thank you.

Q (Inaudible.)

Q Yes, he was talking to me.

Tariffs are -- in effect, are tax on imported products that are paid for by the consumer. So does the President realize that these escalated tariffs are going to be paid for by the American citizens?

MR. KUDLOW: Well, look, he realizes the ramifications. As I said earlier, given the strength of our economy, given the size of our economy, we are in position to deal with this and handle this very well. That's the key point. And I'm not so sure about China, but I'll leave that to China experts, and so forth and so on.

The benefits -- let me just look at the other side of the ledgers. Very important. The benefits of true, free trade, globally, will be enormous. You know, if we go back to the idea of zero tariffs, and zero non-tariff barriers, and zero

subsidies; if China plays by the rules, even the WTO rules -- and all of that needs reforming, in our judgement -- but they are violating those rules. If we do have a free trading system or we move in the direction of the free trading system -- a true free trading system -- we will benefit enormously. And, frankly, we will benefit, they will benefit, and the rest of the world will benefit.

You know, free trade throws off enormous benefits when it's done properly, and consistency, and in a reciprocal manner. That's the key point the President emphasized and he's absolutely right.

So, you know, I think of it -- this is a -- possibly a long rainbow here, and at the end of that rainbow is a pot of gold. You open up that pot and you have prosperity for the rest of the world, but you got to get through that long rainbow. We're not there yet. We can get there, the President is reaching out, but we'll see how that works.

Yes, go ahead. I'm sorry. Yes, go ahead.

Q Thank you, sir. Earlier, you mentioned low oil and gas prices as evidence that the President's economic policy is working. You mentioned the U.S. becoming the global dominant energy player. But merely days ago, the President said that it was necessary to let Saudi Arabia and its Crown Prince get away with ordering the murder of a Washington Post journalist because Saudi Arabia ensures low gas prices. Now, which one is it sir?

MR. KUDLOW: I'm going to let Ambassador Bolton handle that question. I'm trying so hard to swim in my own lane, and I think John will help out with that whole discussion. He's sitting there much too calmly and quietly so I want to get him up here. We've known each other a very long time.

You're on, John.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I'm delighted to be here. (Laughter.) I don't really have much to add. Sarah gave you the list of bilaterals. Let me just update it a little bit because we're trying to fill every minute of the President's schedule.

She said he's going to meet with President Macri, the host government of Argentina. He'll meet with President Moon of South Korea. He'll meet with President Erdogan of Turkey, Prime Minister Abe of Japan. That will transform at some point during that meeting into a trilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. And then, as Sarah said, the President will meet with President Putin, and have a working dinner with President Xi.

Yeah, right here.

Q Thank you, sir. Does the President have any plans in the works to meet with the Saudi Crown Prince while he is there?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: No. Look, the bilateral schedule is full to overflowing at this point, and so those are ones that I've listed that he'll be meeting with.

Q Hello? Yes. I have a question about the border tensions right now with the U.S. and Mexico.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Yes.

Q The U.S. launched tear gas canisters into Mexican soil, and I'm wondering if you've gotten any -- if Mexico has given the go ahead before that happened. And what is the U.S. doing to mitigate any tensions right now with the incoming López Obrador administration?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Yeah. I don't think that's really a subject of the G20. But I can say that Secretary of State Pompeo, who will be attending the G20, and therefore will not be accompanying Vice President Pence to the inauguration on Saturday the 1st -- Secretary Pompeo will fly overnight from Argentina to Mexico, and will meet with

the new foreign minister of Mexico on Sunday the 2nd. And they'll have a full conversation about all the issues in connection with the border.

Q What do you expect to be on the agenda for the President's meeting with Putin?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I think all of the issues that we have on security issues; on arms control issues; on regional issues, including the Middle East -- I think it will be a full agenda. I think it will be a continuation of their discussion in Helsinki.

Q Thank you so much, Ambassador. Two questions about Brazil since you are heading there on Thursday to meet with the new incoming President from Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro. One on trade that I know is one of the priorities: For the past few years, Brazil had a trade surplus with Brazil.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: The United States had a trade surplus with Brazil?

Q Just last year, \$27 billion alone. And besides of that, President Trump complained about the Brazilian protectionism. He said Brazil is one of the "toughest" on trade access. What should we expect -- related to trade relationship with Brazil -- with the new Brazilian government? Should we expect more cooperation or more tariffs like those on steel and aluminum?

And another one on Venezuela that I know is another priority of the meeting. What kind of cooperation are you expecting with the new Brazilian government? Are you guys going to discuss sanctions?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, the meeting with President-elect Bolsonaro came as a result of President Trump's call on election night in Brazil to congratulate President-elect Bolsonaro. They had a really outstanding phone call -- I think developed a personal relationship, even remotely. President Trump was the first foreign leader to call President-elect Bolsonaro.

So, following up on this, we thought it would be useful and certainly very helpful to the United States to hear from the President-elect what his priorities are, what he's looking for in the relationship.

From the perspective of the United States, we see this as a historic opportunity for Brazil and the United States to work together in a whole host of areas: economics, security, and a range of others. So I'm really looking forward to hearing what the President-elect's priorities are, try and respond to him, and try to tell him a little bit about what President Trump's views are. And hopefully, when President-elect Bolsonaro is inaugurated on January the 1st, that the two leaders can really get off to a running start.

So I'm just really there to prepare the ground for them.

Q Ambassador Bolton, you tweeted earlier today about a case involving an American family that's being held in China. Is the President -- have you talked to the President about this case? What is he -- if so, what has he told you? And will he bring this up directly at his meeting with Xi Jinping and expect the family to be allowed to leave before any trade deal is done?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I've discussed the question of American hostages and people wrongfully held with him on a whole range of subjects. I don't want to get into what his reaction was, because I don't think those conversations should be public. But this is a matter of real concern to us. And I think, given that the range of issues that President Xi and President Trump will be covering, it's entirely possible that that would come up.

Q Ambassador Bolton.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Yeah.

Q Thank you. Back to that meeting with President Putin and President Trump. Will President Trump condemn Russia's aggression in Ukraine? Does the U.S. consider it an act of war? And has he spoken with either Putin or Poroshenko about what happened?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Look, Ambassador Haley, in the very estimable position of U.N. ambassador, spoke for the United States yesterday at the Security Council and we're going to stand on that statement.

Q Ambassador Bolton, I just had a question about the -- you mentioned the bilat with the Turkish leader. They've been very critical of the U.S. position backing Saudi Arabia with respect to the killing of Jamal Khashoggi. Are you concerned that that will affect the relations with the U.S. ally?

And I wanted to follow up -- that audio intelligence of the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, have you heard that tape? And does it conclusively point to the Crown Prince as ordering the killing of Jamal Khashoggi?

And one final one --

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I'm supposed to remember all these? (Laughter.)

Q I'll prompt you, if need help.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Thank you.

Q And finally, is it true the White House is blocking Gina Haspel from speaking to senators about that audio intelligence on Wednesday?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: So, let me take the question of the tape first. No, I haven't listened to it. And I guess I should ask you, why do you think I should? What do you think I'll learn from it?

Q Well, you're the National Security Advisor. You might have access to that sort of intelligence.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Yeah. How many in this room speak Arabic?

Q You don't have access to an interpreter?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: What, you want me to listen to it? What am I going to learn from -- I mean, if they were speaking Korean, I wouldn't learn any more from it either.

Q Well, an interpreter would be able to tell you what's going on.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, then I can read a transcript, too.

Q Okay. So you don't think it's important that you hear that as the National Security Advisor?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I'm just trying to make the point that everybody who says, "Why don't you listen to the tape?" Unless you speak Arabic, what are you going to get from it, really?

The President -- the President has spoken to our position on this issue. He's spoken very clearly. And that is our position.

Now, tell me the other questions.

Q Are you blocking Gina Haspel from --

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: No, certainly not.

Q -- sharing information with members of the Congress?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Certainly not. Certainly not.

Okay? No, back here in the back.

Q Mr. Bolton, could you --

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Sorry. The man in the back.

Q Okay, so the Argentinian authority captured two Hezbollah suspects last week. And Brazil probably is going to follow the American footsteps and blacklist Hezbollah also on terrorist list.

And also, Hezbollah is replying for the sanctions -- the last sanctions -- by blocking the formation of the new government; it's a quotation for Saad Hariri. So how will you put all this together? Is it going to be discussed in the G[20] Summit -- [G]20 Summit -- Iran and Hezbollah influence the region?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I expect in the bilateral meetings, depending on the country, that there will be substantial conversation about counterterrorism efforts where we participate together. That's certainly something that may well come up in Brazil with the President-elect Bolsonaro. And I think it's one of President Trump's biggest priorities, to extend cooperation against terrorism, whether it's Hezbollah or Hamas or others.

So, entirely likely, it could be a subject.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Ambassador, going back to the Khashoggi issue. Being informed about an issue is part of, I guess, what is in the scope of national security.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: We try to be.

Q Okay. But in the midst of it, why not -- I'm going to go back to that question again, sir. Why not get a translator to understand, to hear what happened? You could find out a little bit more than what they've told you by listening.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: People who speak Arabic have listened to the tape, and they have given us the substance of what's in it.

Q And you trust those who've given you the substance --

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I don't speak Arabic.

Q I know. But a translator -- you could hear the emotion, and a translator could help you understand what happened at that time to relay to the President, to the United States, and to convey to the world what happened.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I'm very satisfied that we know what the tape picked up. And it was factored into the President's decision. And he's announced his position very clearly.

Q As economic security is national security, I think this should be in your lane.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I was going to defer to Larry, but it's --

Q (Laughs.) Let me see if I can keep it in your lane, if I could. The talks with China have been marked with intransigence, disappointment. Larry was talking about that at length this morning -- this idea of some sense of optimism going into this Saturday night dinner with Xi. Is it based on any notion that Xi is going to suddenly say, you know, "This idea of intellectual property theft and forced technology transfer, protectionist tariffs -- I don't know what we were thinking. It was a bad idea. Let's level the playing field and start anew."

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I think President Trump has developed a very positive relationship with President Xi. They've met. They've spoken over the phone. Obviously, both leaders carry in to any discussion like this their national interest. And I think it's instructive and I think the Chinese side believes the same thing -- to have the two leaders exchange their views in the presence of their senior advisors. And not with the expectation that, at this meeting, there'll be some substantial agreement coming out of it, but that there would be an indication, a kind of way ahead that the advisors could then pursue.

And I see Sarah is so eager to be here to answer your questions (inaudible).

MS. SANDERS: I was going to give him one more but --

Q Well, Mr. Kudlow deferred a question to him. Could he answer the question that was deferred to him, please? Mr. Bolton. (Inaudible) Bolton.

MS. SANDERS: I think he's already going. (Laughter.)

As you know, the new President of Mexico will be inaugurated on Saturday. To represent the United States in Mexico City, President Trump has asked the Vice President Mike Pence to lead a delegation that will include the Second Lady of the United States Karen Pence, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen, Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, United States Embassy Mexico City Diplomat John Creamer, and Assistant Secretary of State Kimberly Breier.

Lastly, this morning, we learned the sad news that three U.S. service members were killed and three wounded when an explosive device detonated in Afghanistan.

The wounded service members were evacuated and are receiving medical care. We extend our thoughts and prayers to the loved ones of those killed and to those recovering.

The United States is grateful for their service and forever in debt of their sacrifice.

With that, I'll take your questions.

Justin.

Q Sarah, the Guardian is reporting today that Paul Manafort met with Julian Assange around the time that he was coming onboard with the Trump campaign. I'm wondering if you know if that meeting took place, and if you remain confident in the White House's repeated denials that no campaign officials were involved in discussions about the plans to release John Podesta's emails?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly, I remain confident in the White House's assertion that the President was involved in no wrongdoing -- was not part of any collusion. The things that have to do with Mr. Manafort, I would refer you to his attorneys to address that.

Q Sarah, given what the President said this morning that Robert Mueller is "ruining" people's lives, is he considering a pardon for Paul Manafort, or for others who were prosecuted and have been prosecuted?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not aware of any conversations for anyone's pardon involving this process at all.

Q And if I can follow up -- he also said this morning Mueller is "doing TREMENDOUS damage" to the criminal justice system. If that's true, is he considering picking up the phone, calling his acting Attorney General, and saying, "Fire Robert Mueller?"

MS. SANDERS: Look, I think that the President has had Robert Mueller doing his job for the last two years, and he could've taken action at any point, and he hasn't. So we'll let that speak for itself.

THE PRESIDENT: So is he (inaudible) it out now?

MS. SANDERS: He has no intent to do anything.

Zeke.

Q Thanks, Sarah. Over the weekend, we saw some powerful images of children, as well as adults, who were affected by tear gas fired by U.S. officers along the U.S.-Mexico border. We heard the President talk about that at length yesterday. But one thing we did not hear from him was any expression, really, of regret that there were children caught up in this. I was wondering, does the White House regret the fact that children were affected by tear gas, and that this situation took place? And are they -- is there an investigation underway to prevent this from happening again?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly the White House would never want children to be in harm's way in any capacity whatsoever.

However, that is why we are continuing to encourage people to follow the law and go to ports of entry. Law enforcement officials have used appropriate, non-lethal force to protect themselves, and prevent an illegal rush across the border.

And let's also not forget that this isn't the first time that non-lethal force like this has been used. In fact, tear gas was used on average once a month during the Obama administration for very similar circumstances. In fact, they were actually for far less circumstances, because they didn't have the same numbers in the mass rush that we're seeing in this caravan take place.

Certainly no one wants women or children or any individuals to have this happen, which is why we've encouraged them to actually follow the law and go to ports of entry.

Q And, Sarah, if I may, can I just follow up real quick on something that Ambassador Bolton actually -- when he ruled out a bilat that the President and MBS -- is the White House ruling out any interaction between the President and the Saudi Crown Prince, and is he sort of in the equivalent of a diplomatic time-out?

MS. SANDERS: I wouldn't say that we've ruled out any interaction. I know that the President's schedule is pretty packed and has a number of sessions that he'll be involved in with the G20, as well as a number of bilats. I don't think there is any time for us to add anything additional. Whether or not there is some interaction, I'm not going to rule that out and we'll keep you guys posted as to what happens tomorrow.

Q Thanks, Sarah. Yesterday in Mississippi at his rally, the President said -- he asked a question about Mike Espy. He said, "How does he fit in with Mississippi? I mean, how does he fit in?" I guess suggesting that he doesn't fit in. I mean, Mike Espy's great-grandparents were slaves in Mississippi. What did the President mean by that?

MS. SANDERS: Due to the fact that is an election that is taking place today, I'm not going to comment on anything that could affect anything taking place in Mississippi. And I'm certainly happy to comment on that after today.

Jon.

Q Thanks a lot Sarah.

Q But the President was talking (inaudible) --

MS. SANDERS: The President is not guided by the Hatch Act.

Jon, go ahead.

Q Thanks a lot, Sarah. Does the administration have a position on the President of Ecuador continuing to provide asylum to Julian Assange at its embassy in London?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not aware of anything official. I'd have to get back to you.

Q Just one more on that, if I may, Sarah. Will you, from the podium, call on the Ecuadorian government to confirm whether or not some sort of meeting may have taken place between Paul Manafort and Julian Assange at its embassy?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly we encourage the process to continue to play out, but I'm not going to get engaged in specifics of that case.

Weijia.

Q Sarah, President Trump has implied that a potential new deal with Mexico is a done deal, tweeting that migrants will stay in Mexico as they wait for their cases of asylum to be processed. How far along are talks with the new Mexican administration about the so-called "Remain in Mexico" policy?

MS. SANDERS: Those conversations continue. We won't have a final decision until the new government actually takes over, which will happen on Saturday. And on Monday, we expect the Foreign -- the new Foreign Minister for Mexico to meet and sit down with White House administration officials and the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and continue and try to finalize those conversations.

Q A second question on Khashoggi because, tomorrow, Secretaries Pompeo and Mattis will brief the full Senate on the murder. Why is a leader of a U.S. intelligence agency not joining them -- specifically Gina Haspel, who many senators expect to hear from?

MS. SANDERS: Ambassador Bolton addressed this. I'm not going to comment on behalf of the CIA Director in that capacity. That's something that I would direct you to them to answer.

Q Sarah, I want to ask you about the climate assessment that your administration released last week. The President, yesterday, when asked about the economic forecast, essentially said he didn't believe it.

The takeaway for many people is that the President doesn't feel necessarily a responsibility to lead, either in this country or in the world, on climate change and preventing the calamity that your administration forecasts. Do you agree with that view? And if not, why not?

MS. SANDERS: The President is certainly lean- -- leading on what matters most in this process. And that's on having clean air, clean water. In fact, the United States continues to be a leader on that front. Even Obama's undersecretary for science didn't believe the radical conclusions of the report that was released.

And you have to look at the fact that this report is based on the most extreme modeled scenario, which contradicts long-established trends. Modeling the climate is an extremely complicated science that is never exact.

The biggest thing that we can do is focus on how to make sure we have the cleanest air, the cleanest water. And the President is certainly doing that and certainly leading on that front.

Q Sarah, how is he doing that? I mean, the President is about to go to Buenos Aires and meet with all the leaders of the world's industrialized nations -- and developing nations, as well. Isn't this a great opportunity for him to sit at the table and say, "Folks, this is what my administration just reported. This is the time that we all have to act in concert to prevent what my administration is forecasting"?

MS. SANDERS: Once again, we think that this is the most extreme version and it's not based on facts. It's based on -- it's not data-driven. We'd like to see something that is more data-driven. It's based on modeling, which is extremely hard to do when you're talking about the climate.

Again, our focus is on making sure we have the safest, cleanest air and water. And the President is going to do exactly that.

April.

Q Sarah, I want to go back to GM. President Trump early on in January 2017 met with the big three automakers, and he said he wanted to make the U.S. a more attractive place for companies to manufacture products by lowering taxes and business regulations. What does this move, this action by GM say?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly, it's disappointing to see that GM decided to lay off these workers. The President has been extremely committed to bringing manufacturing jobs back to the United States, which is why, since he took office, we've seen 400,000 new manufacturing jobs created in the United States. It's because of his policies that we've seen that grow.

This is not about the President; it's about the fact that they're making a car, frankly, that people don't want to buy. And hopefully they will make adjustments and make changes and bring those workers back.

Jim.

Q Sarah, getting back to Paul Manafort and the Special Counsel's office saying that he's violating the terms of his plea agreement by lying to investigators. Would the President recommend that Mr. Manafort begin to cooperate, offer full cooperation to the Special Counsel's office?

MS. SANDERS: We can only speak to what our role is in that process. And not only has the President, but the entire administration has been fully cooperative with the Special Counsel's office, providing hours and hours of sit-downs, as well as over 4 million pages in documents.

We continue to be cooperative, but we also know that there was no collusion and we're ready for this to wrap up.

Q And if I could ask a follow-up? The President doesn't believe the warnings in the climate report. The President doesn't believe the CIA when it comes to Jamal Khashoggi. The President doesn't believe the --

MS. SANDERS: That's not accurate.

Q -- intelligence community when it comes to Russia meddling. Why doesn't he have faith in his advisors?

MS. SANDERS: That's not true. The President has a great deal of faith in the intelligence community and certainly in the team that he has assembled around him.

However, I've addressed the climate report. There's really nothing else to add on that front.

Q But on Khashoggi, you said that that was not true, that he doesn't believe the CIA. He said the other day: Maybe MBS did, maybe he didn't -- the Crown Prince.

MS. SANDERS: And we haven't seen definitive evidence come from our intelligence community that ties him directly to that. What we have seen is a number of individuals that we know are tied to that and those individuals have been sanctioned. The people that we have no doubt about their involvement, we've taken action on. And as he said, we'll see what happens beyond that. And if there is more definitive information, we'll make a decision at that point.

Roberta.

Q Sarah, the "Remain in Mexico" meeting that you talked about on Monday, is that happening here or in Mexico? And is the United States offering Mexico any international assistance to help accommodate the migrants seeking asylum who would be staying in Mexico as a result?

MS. SANDERS: Sorry, on that second question, do you mind repeating that? I was -- the first part on whether or not the meeting is here or in Mexico, I'll get back to you on that. I'm not sure on the exact location.

Q Okay. Is the United States offering Mexico any financial assistance, or does the United States plan to, to accommodate the migrants who would be staying in Mexico as a result?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not aware of financial assistance, but certainly we'll keep you posted if (inaudible).

Q Just to clean up -- just to clean up on the bilats. You mentioned in your list a bilat with the Chancellor of Germany, but the Ambassador did not. Has that bilat been canceled?

MS. SANDERS: No, it hasn't. I just think he was giving additional updates on the one that I didn't mention.

John.

Q Sarah, the President tweeted at length yesterday about the Mueller report, asking if it was going to show both sides. What are his concerns about any forthcoming Mueller report? And as that report is supposed to be delivered to no one else by the attorney general, is he concerned that's it going to become public without his knowledge?

MS. SANDERS: I don't think the President has any concerns about the report because he knows that there was no wrongdoing by him and that there was no collusion. So I don't think he has concern on that front.

Q If he has no concerns, why is he tweeting so vociferously about it?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly the President has voiced his unhappiness from the beginning that this has gone on -- this ridiculous witch hunt -- for more than two years. Still nothing that ties anything to the President, and we'd like to see it come to conclusion.

Peter.

Q Thank you, Sarah. Does the President believe that the work of the Special Prosecutor Bob Mueller is illegitimate?

MS. SANDERS: I'm sorry?

Q Does the President believe that the prosecutions -- the indictments of Bob Mueller are illegitimate?

MS. SANDERS: I think the President believes that what I've said several times today and several times over the last couple of years -- that there was no wrongdoing on his part; there was no collusion by his campaign. And beyond that, that's really all we can speak about here at the White House.

Last question. Hallie.

Q Thank you. Two questions for you. The President, as you were speaking, is tweeting that he is going to be considering cutting all GM subsidies, including for electric cars. Can you explain why -- he says that he thinks that would help American workers. Can you explain why that wouldn't end up backfiring as we've already seen, and who the President has consulted, and what a timeline is for this decision?

MS. SANDERS: I don't know that there is a specific timeline. As he said, he's looking into what those options might look like. The President wants to see American companies build cars here in America, not build them overseas. And he is hopeful that GM will continue to do that here.

Second question.

Q And my second question for you is on Afghanistan. The President, on Thanksgiving Day, told U.S. troops that we are winning the war in Afghanistan, which contradicted what the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said -- that it was a stalemate. Does the President today still believe, after what we saw over the weekend, that we are winning in Afghanistan? And why?

MS. SANDERS: Certainty anytime you have a loss of life, particularly by an American service member, it is a horrific tragedy and something that no President wants to see, certainly not during their administration. And the President wants to make sure that the battle that we're fighting takes place there and not here. And he's going to continue consulting with his national security team and make decisions on how best to move forward beyond that.

Thanks so much, guys. Have a great day.

END 2:19 P.M. EST

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[The White House]
Office of the Press Secretary
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 27, 2018

PRESS BRIEFING
BY PRESS SECRETARY SARAH SANDERS,
DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL LARRY KUDLOW,
AND NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR AMBASSADOR JOHN BOLTON

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:35 P.M. EST

MS. SANDERS: Good afternoon. Later this week, the President and First Lady will travel to Argentina for the G20 Summit. President Trump's participation in the G20 Summit is a key opportunity to reiterate his commitment to domestic and global economic growth and prosperity, cement relations with other world leaders, and advance a global economic system that is based on fair economic competition and free, fair, and reciprocal trade.

While at the G20, the President and the delegation will interact -- interact with many leaders, including bilateral meetings with the President of Argentina, the President of Russia, the Prime Minister of Japan, and the Chancellor of Germany, and a working dinner with the President of China.

To speak more about the G20 and what the President intends to accomplish, I'd like to welcome to the podium Director of the National Economic Council Larry Kudlow and, following him, National Security Advisor Ambassador John Bolton.

After their remarks, both will be available to take your questions on the G20 and other foreign policy news of the day. And then I'll be back up to take other questions on news of the day. Thanks.

MR. KUDLOW: Thank you, Sarah. Thanks everybody. Let me just walk through some quick themes and then I want to mention some things the President talked -- talked to us just a little while ago.

As Sarah said, G20 -- funny, it's not actually the G20 when we count it up properly. As Ambassador Bolton points out, it's much more than the G20.

Now, in terms of the U.S. positions, we're going to use this as an opportunity to talk about our measures of tax cuts and deregulations, and reskilling and job training, and so forth that have generated significant economic growth and prosperity. And that includes women's economic empowerment.

As Sarah mentioned, free, fair, and reciprocal trade and trade reform. There'll be discussions of infrastructure, finance, and also the U.S. emergence as the dominant energy power in the world today, actually.

In terms of the much-discussed meeting -- it's going to be a dinner meeting between President Trump and President Xi and representatives from both sides. It will be a bilateral. I want to just mention what the President told us a short while ago and that is, in his view, there's a good possibility that a deal can be made and that he is open to that. He is open to that.

But having said that -- some caveats, as always -- certain conditions have to be met with respect to fairness and reciprocities. We've said many times, for example, issues of intellectual property theft must be solved. Forced technology transfers must be solved. Significant tariffs and non-tariff barriers must be solved. Issues of ownership have to be solved.

The President will probably reiterate his view: We want a world, ideally, of zero tariffs, zero non-tariff barriers, and zero subsidies. Now, whether they can through all of that remains to be seen but that's the President's point of view, as I said just a little while ago.

The U.S. is coming to the summit in very good shape. Our economy is quite strong. It's growing at 3 percent over the past year. Second quarter was 4.2. Third quarter was 3.5, perhaps to be revised upwards. We're in a very strong holiday season, so-called "Black Friday." Very strong.

We've had tremendous investments -- business investments, energy investments. Oil prices and gasoline prices are coming down. That helps consumers of course. We're in very good shape.

China, not so good. I'm not here to critique or second-guess the Chinese economy, but most observers believe China to be in a slump, whereas the United States is in a very strong solid position going into this summit.

However, again, to repeat, the President said, there is a good possibility that we can make a deal. And he is open to it. But on the other hand, if these conditions I mentioned a few moments ago are not met and not dealt with -- you know, the President said, look, he's perfectly happy to stand on his tariff policies, which -- 10 percent, the last \$200 billion -- scheduled to go to 25 percent. That's not a certainty, but that's the schedule.

And he has said as recently as yesterday, the day before, if need be -- if things don't work out in this U.S.-China summit meeting, he will invoke another 267-some-odd billion dollars in tariffs. That may not be the first choice. I'm just saying that is his view if we can't get something done.

And things have been moving very slowly between the two countries, until the President himself called President Xi and said, "Let's restart. Let's try to get things going again." And then, since then, he's made positive comments about that. So we will see.

As I said, the key U.S. goals surround growth and prosperity. And you know, our economy is in good shape; theirs is not.

I'll just leave it right there. John, do you want to add stuff to that? Do you want me to take some questions?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Go ahead.

MR. KUDLOW: You sure? Okay, good. Let me take some questions and try to help out on this.

Yes.

Q Mr. Kudlow, I'd like you to address some concerns recently from representatives in Italy and France and Germany who say that we're actually backing away from the national stage and they fear that Russia will be the dominant

economic force in Europe and the Middle East in the coming years. Could you address those concerns, A? And, B, can you tell us a little bit, if you can, about the layoffs at GM?

MR. KUDLOW: Well, I'll talk to you about GM layoffs. Regarding the Russian story, I'm going to leave that to my long-time friend and colleague, John Bolton.

I met with Mary Barra yesterday and we had a lengthy conversation about the layoffs, the cause of the layoffs. It's a great disappointment, obviously.

The President indicated his own disappointment. He believes -- as, frankly, the Prime Minister of Canada, Trudeau, believes -- that the USMCA deal was a great help to the automobile industry and to autoworkers. And, by the way, they made those statements separately.

And yet, GM comes in right after the deal -- by the way, that deal will be signed in Argentina with the U.S. and Canadian representatives. So there's great disappointment there. There's disappointment that it seems like GM would rather build its electric cars in China rather than in the United States.

We are going to be looking at certain subsidies regarding electric cars and others -- whether they should apply or not. I can't say anything final about that, but we're looking into it. Again, that reflects the President's own disappointment regarding these actions.

Ms. Barra told me on the other hand -- I want to be completely fair here -- it's her business -- it may be possible to transfer workers to other plants in Texas and Michigan. I'm not an expert on General Motors. I'm not an analyst -- auto analyst. But that's what she said.

But obviously there's lot of disappointment, even anger. I've heard it, again, from Mr. Trudeau, from President Trump, from Democrats and Republicans.

Q And just to follow up, do you think it's going to adversely affect our economy coming to the Christmas season and after?

MR. KUDLOW: No. I mean, look, I don't want anybody to get laid off. I'm -- I want workers to do very well. I want worker wages to do well, and they are. I mean, that's one of the great things.

You know, there's a certain amount of pessimism that I'm reading about. Maybe it has to do with a -- really, a mild stock market correction. Let's not forget a couple weeks ago. Just on this very point, we had 250,000 new jobs, which was a blockbuster number. Nobody really expected it. With a 3.1 percent yearly gain in wages and a 3.7 percent unemployment rate -- those are very spiffy numbers by any benchmark in any metric.

So again, holiday season layoffs from GM -- brutal. Brutal. All right? Very disappointing. Will it affect the overall economy? I don't think so. I do not think so.

Yes.

Q Yeah, back to the question over the tariffs and -- if these talks with President Xi go nowhere and we move forward with this escalation of the tariffs that you just described -- which, correct me if I'm wrong, would be the biggest addition of tariffs that we've seen in your lifetime -- what will the impact be on the U.S. economy? I mean, you -- and I'm asking -

MR. KUDLOW: That's a long -- that's a long period of time you mentioned. My lifetime.

Q Well, you know, but I -- (laughter). I mean, you have been a committed free trader for almost all of those years.

MR. KUDLOW: Yes.

Q So what will be the impact on the U.S. economy if we see tariffs go up to the degree that you just described?

MR. KUDLOW: You know, we'll see what happens, okay? I don't want to presuppose anything. The President is going to make up his mind after the meeting.

But I will say this: Our economy is in very good shape right now. And when you multiply through whatever numbers you want to use -- \$250 billion or tack on another tranche, which may or may not happen, at a 10 percent tariff rate or more -- it's really just a fraction of our economy. Okay? It's just a fraction of our economy.

I'm not suggesting that there aren't winners and losers in that game. It's a complicated game. But on the other hand, I think we are in far better shape to weather this than the Chinese are.

And I want to say one other thing. I really appreciate your characterization; I am a free trader. But you have to ask yourself -- and this is what President Trump has been talking about -- is it free trade when there is clear evidence of unfair and WTO illegal trading practices by China for several decades? Is that fair? Is that free? Is it free when intellectual property theft occurs or when Chinese ownership of American companies force transference of technology from American companies to the Chinese companies? Is that fair? Or high tariffs on agriculture and industrial supplies, is that fair?

So President Trump is the first President in, I don't know, at least 20 years -- and I'm including Democrats and Republicans -- who not only has made this case but continues to make this case forcefully and to take actions to defend American workers and our overall economy. Other Presidents in both parties have raised the issue and then walked away from it and President Trump obviously doesn't intend to.

You know, this is under the heading, I think, for him, of "Promises made, promises kept." It's something he's talked about for several years and he now continues.

If China will come to the table -- or, in this case, the dinner table -- with some new ideas and some new attitudes and some new cooperation, as the President said, there's a good possibility they can make a deal. He's open to it. So nothing is written in cement or stone. But, again, for a free trader, where's the free trade?

And, for several months now, since I've been here, the President and I have talked about this -- you know, we'd love to see a world of zero tariffs, and zero non-tariff barriers, and zero subsidies. We'd love to see that world. But unfortunately we don't have that world, particularly with respect to China, but not only China. And so he's taking actions that he thinks will get us closer to that world.

We can go around. Yes, please.

Q Thanks. Just another GM question: When the President said yesterday "they better damn well open [up] a new plant there very quickly," was he just venting his frustration? Or does he have some consequences in mind if they don't?

MR. KUDLOW: You know, I'm going to leave that to him. You may find additional announcements coming on that topic.

Some more? Let me go in the back. Yes, ma'am.

Q I wanted to ask you about what Ambassador Cui Tiankai said recently to the Wall Street Journal.

MR. KUDLOW: Who?

Q Ambassador Cui Tiankai, the Chinese Ambassador to the United States.

MR. KUDLOW: Yes.

Q His thought was that there would be a real risk to global -- to the global markets if there wasn't a deal. That they could become fragmented as well. How big are the stakes if you can't reach a deal?

MR. KUDLOW: Look, the ambassador makes a point. Now, if he would do his part or his government would do their part, then we can all make a much better point. That's what President Trump is saying.

I mean, I'll read you the quote again. There's a "good possibility" we can make a deal, and he's open to it. But certain conditions, you know, have to be met. Certain things have to be changed. And the President, again, in the spirit of "Promises made, promises kept," is going to defend, you know, the interests of the American workers and ranchers and small businesses and the economy writ large.

We've -- let me just add one other point to this: The rest of the world agrees with us. I mean, we signed, at the U.N., for example, the trilateral agreement with the EU and the United States and Japan -- worth looking at that document, which outlines, you know, what they call "non-market abuses." Read: China.

Just recently, before the Shanghai conference where President Xi was to give an important speech -- I'm not sure there was much new there. But in any case, just before that conference, with no prodding from the USA, the ambassadors -- the French and German ambassadors to China -- the French and German ambassadors to China wrote a very tough piece going after, again, non-market, unfair, non-reciprocal trading practices. There is broad-based support for the American position here, which is China should change its practices and come into the community of responsible trading nations.

They can do that. Right? They're a major economy right now. It's not like they were 25 or 30 years ago. We would welcome it. The President has said he's happy to make a deal, but they have to take certain actions and give certain assurances. So, you know.

Q Director, does that mean you'll spend the G20 getting that support around your position from other countries at the G20?

MR. KUDLOW: I'm sure we will. I'm sure we will. We have in many other forms. It's got more -- I want Ambassador -- I want Ambassador -- yes, please.

Q Mr. Kudlow, thank you.

Q (Inaudible.)

Q Yes, he was talking to me.

Tariffs are -- in effect, are tax on imported products that are paid for by the consumer. So does the President realize that these escalated tariffs are going to be paid for by the American citizens?

MR. KUDLOW: Well, look, he realizes the ramifications. As I said earlier, given the strength of our economy, given the size of our economy, we are in position to deal with this and handle this very well. That's the key point. And I'm not so sure about China, but I'll leave that to China experts, and so forth and so on.

The benefits -- let me just look at the other side of the ledgers. Very important. The benefits of true, free trade, globally, will be enormous. You know, if we go back to the idea of zero tariffs, and zero non-tariff barriers, and zero

subsidies; if China plays by the rules, even the WTO rules -- and all of that needs reforming, in our judgement -- but they are violating those rules. If we do have a free trading system or we move in the direction of the free trading system -- a true free trading system -- we will benefit enormously. And, frankly, we will benefit, they will benefit, and the rest of the world will benefit.

You know, free trade throws off enormous benefits when it's done properly, and consistency, and in a reciprocal manner. That's the key point the President emphasized and he's absolutely right.

So, you know, I think of it -- this is a -- possibly a long rainbow here, and at the end of that rainbow is a pot of gold. You open up that pot and you have prosperity for the rest of the world, but you got to get through that long rainbow. We're not there yet. We can get there, the President is reaching out, but we'll see how that works.

Yes, go ahead. I'm sorry. Yes, go ahead.

Q Thank you, sir. Earlier, you mentioned low oil and gas prices as evidence that the President's economic policy is working. You mentioned the U.S. becoming the global dominant energy player. But merely days ago, the President said that it was necessary to let Saudi Arabia and its Crown Prince get away with ordering the murder of a Washington Post journalist because Saudi Arabia ensures low gas prices. Now, which one is it sir?

MR. KUDLOW: I'm going to let Ambassador Bolton handle that question. I'm trying so hard to swim in my own lane, and I think John will help out with that whole discussion. He's sitting there much too calmly and quietly so I want to get him up here. We've known each other a very long time.

You're on, John.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I'm delighted to be here. (Laughter.) I don't really have much to add. Sarah gave you the list of bilaterals. Let me just update it a little bit because we're trying to fill every minute of the President's schedule.

She said he's going to meet with President Macri, the host government of Argentina. He'll meet with President Moon of South Korea. He'll meet with President Erdogan of Turkey, Prime Minister Abe of Japan. That will transform at some point during that meeting into a trilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. And then, as Sarah said, the President will meet with President Putin, and have a working dinner with President Xi.

Yeah, right here.

Q Thank you, sir. Does the President have any plans in the works to meet with the Saudi Crown Prince while he is there?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: No. Look, the bilateral schedule is full to overflowing at this point, and so those are ones that I've listed that he'll be meeting with.

Q Hello? Yes. I have a question about the border tensions right now with the U.S. and Mexico.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Yes.

Q The U.S. launched tear gas canisters into Mexican soil, and I'm wondering if you've gotten any -- if Mexico has given the go ahead before that happened. And what is the U.S. doing to mitigate any tensions right now with the incoming López Obrador administration?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Yeah. I don't think that's really a subject of the G20. But I can say that Secretary of State Pompeo, who will be attending the G20, and therefore will not be accompanying Vice President Pence to the inauguration on Saturday the 1st -- Secretary Pompeo will fly overnight from Argentina to Mexico, and will meet with

the new foreign minister of Mexico on Sunday the 2nd. And they'll have a full conversation about all the issues in connection with the border.

Q What do you expect to be on the agenda for the President's meeting with Putin?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I think all of the issues that we have on security issues; on arms control issues; on regional issues, including the Middle East -- I think it will be a full agenda. I think it will be a continuation of their discussion in Helsinki.

Q Thank you so much, Ambassador. Two questions about Brazil since you are heading there on Thursday to meet with the new incoming President from Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro. One on trade that I know is one of the priorities: For the past few years, Brazil had a trade surplus with Brazil.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: The United States had a trade surplus with Brazil?

Q Just last year, \$27 billion alone. And besides of that, President Trump complained about the Brazilian protectionism. He said Brazil is one of the "toughest" on trade access. What should we expect -- related to trade relationship with Brazil -- with the new Brazilian government? Should we expect more cooperation or more tariffs like those on steel and aluminum?

And another one on Venezuela that I know is another priority of the meeting. What kind of cooperation are you expecting with the new Brazilian government? Are you guys going to discuss sanctions?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, the meeting with President-elect Bolsonaro came as a result of President Trump's call on election night in Brazil to congratulate President-elect Bolsonaro. They had a really outstanding phone call -- I think developed a personal relationship, even remotely. President Trump was the first foreign leader to call President-elect Bolsonaro.

So, following up on this, we thought it would be useful and certainly very helpful to the United States to hear from the President-elect what his priorities are, what he's looking for in the relationship.

From the perspective of the United States, we see this as a historic opportunity for Brazil and the United States to work together in a whole host of areas: economics, security, and a range of others. So I'm really looking forward to hearing what the President-elect's priorities are, try and respond to him, and try to tell him a little bit about what President Trump's views are. And hopefully, when President-elect Bolsonaro is inaugurated on January the 1st, that the two leaders can really get off to a running start.

So I'm just really there to prepare the ground for them.

Q Ambassador Bolton, you tweeted earlier today about a case involving an American family that's being held in China. Is the President -- have you talked to the President about this case? What is he -- if so, what has he told you? And will he bring this up directly at his meeting with Xi Jinping and expect the family to be allowed to leave before any trade deal is done?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I've discussed the question of American hostages and people wrongfully held with him on a whole range of subjects. I don't want to get into what his reaction was, because I don't think those conversations should be public. But this is a matter of real concern to us. And I think, given that the range of issues that President Xi and President Trump will be covering, it's entirely possible that that would come up.

Q Ambassador Bolton.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Yeah.

Q Thank you. Back to that meeting with President Putin and President Trump. Will President Trump condemn Russia's aggression in Ukraine? Does the U.S. consider it an act of war? And has he spoken with either Putin or Poroshenko about what happened?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Look, Ambassador Haley, in the very estimable position of U.N. ambassador, spoke for the United States yesterday at the Security Council and we're going to stand on that statement.

Q Ambassador Bolton, I just had a question about the -- you mentioned the bilat with the Turkish leader. They've been very critical of the U.S. position backing Saudi Arabia with respect to the killing of Jamal Khashoggi. Are you concerned that that will affect the relations with the U.S. ally?

And I wanted to follow up -- that audio intelligence of the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, have you heard that tape? And does it conclusively point to the Crown Prince as ordering the killing of Jamal Khashoggi?

And one final one --

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I'm supposed to remember all these? (Laughter.)

Q I'll prompt you, if need help.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Thank you.

Q And finally, is it true the White House is blocking Gina Haspel from speaking to senators about that audio intelligence on Wednesday?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: So, let me take the question of the tape first. No, I haven't listened to it. And I guess I should ask you, why do you think I should? What do you think I'll learn from it?

Q Well, you're the National Security Advisor. You might have access to that sort of intelligence.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Yeah. How many in this room speak Arabic?

Q You don't have access to an interpreter?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: What, you want me to listen to it? What am I going to learn from -- I mean, if they were speaking Korean, I wouldn't learn any more from it either.

Q Well, an interpreter would be able to tell you what's going on.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, then I can read a transcript, too.

Q Okay. So you don't think it's important that you hear that as the National Security Advisor?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I'm just trying to make the point that everybody who says, "Why don't you listen to the tape?" Unless you speak Arabic, what are you going to get from it, really?

The President -- the President has spoken to our position on this issue. He's spoken very clearly. And that is our position.

Now, tell me the other questions.

Q Are you blocking Gina Haspel from --

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: No, certainly not.

Q -- sharing information with members of the Congress?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Certainly not. Certainly not.

Okay? No, back here in the back.

Q Mr. Bolton, could you --

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Sorry. The man in the back.

Q Okay, so the Argentinian authority captured two Hezbollah suspects last week. And Brazil probably is going to follow the American footsteps and blacklist Hezbollah also on terrorist list.

And also, Hezbollah is replying for the sanctions -- the last sanctions -- by blocking the formation of the new government; it's a quotation for Saad Hariri. So how will you put all this together? Is it going to be discussed in the G[20] Summit -- [G]20 Summit -- Iran and Hezbollah influence the region?

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I expect in the bilateral meetings, depending on the country, that there will be substantial conversation about counterterrorism efforts where we participate together. That's certainly something that may well come up in Brazil with the President-elect Bolsonaro. And I think it's one of President Trump's biggest priorities, to extend cooperation against terrorism, whether it's Hezbollah or Hamas or others.

So, entirely likely, it could be a subject.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Ambassador, going back to the Khashoggi issue. Being informed about an issue is part of, I guess, what is in the scope of national security.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: We try to be.

Q Okay. But in the midst of it, why not -- I'm going to go back to that question again, sir. Why not get a translator to understand, to hear what happened? You could find out a little bit more than what they've told you by listening.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: People who speak Arabic have listened to the tape, and they have given us the substance of what's in it.

Q And you trust those who've given you the substance --

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I don't speak Arabic.

Q I know. But a translator -- you could hear the emotion, and a translator could help you understand what happened at that time to relay to the President, to the United States, and to convey to the world what happened.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I'm very satisfied that we know what the tape picked up. And it was factored into the President's decision. And he's announced his position very clearly.

Q As economic security is national security, I think this should be in your lane.

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: I was going to defer to Larry, but it's --

Q (Laughs.) Let me see if I can keep it in your lane, if I could. The talks with China have been marked with intransigence, disappointment. Larry was talking about that at length this morning -- this idea of some sense of optimism going into this Saturday night dinner with Xi. Is it based on any notion that Xi is going to suddenly say, you know, "This idea of intellectual property theft and forced technology transfer, protectionist tariffs -- I don't know what we were thinking. It was a bad idea. Let's level the playing field and start anew."

AMBASSADOR BOLTON: Well, I think President Trump has developed a very positive relationship with President Xi. They've met. They've spoken over the phone. Obviously, both leaders carry in to any discussion like this their national interest. And I think it's instructive and I think the Chinese side believes the same thing -- to have the two leaders exchange their views in the presence of their senior advisors. And not with the expectation that, at this meeting, there'll be some substantial agreement coming out of it, but that there would be an indication, a kind of way ahead that the advisors could then pursue.

And I see Sarah is so eager to be here to answer your questions (inaudible).

MS. SANDERS: I was going to give him one more but --

Q Well, Mr. Kudlow deferred a question to him. Could he answer the question that was deferred to him, please? Mr. Bolton. (Inaudible) Bolton.

MS. SANDERS: I think he's already going. (Laughter.)

As you know, the new President of Mexico will be inaugurated on Saturday. To represent the United States in Mexico City, President Trump has asked the Vice President Mike Pence to lead a delegation that will include the Second Lady of the United States Karen Pence, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen, Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, United States Embassy Mexico City Diplomat John Creamer, and Assistant Secretary of State Kimberly Breier.

Lastly, this morning, we learned the sad news that three U.S. service members were killed and three wounded when an explosive device detonated in Afghanistan.

The wounded service members were evacuated and are receiving medical care. We extend our thoughts and prayers to the loved ones of those killed and to those recovering.

The United States is grateful for their service and forever in debt of their sacrifice.

With that, I'll take your questions.

Justin.

Q Sarah, the Guardian is reporting today that Paul Manafort met with Julian Assange around the time that he was coming onboard with the Trump campaign. I'm wondering if you know if that meeting took place, and if you remain confident in the White House's repeated denials that no campaign officials were involved in discussions about the plans to release John Podesta's emails?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly, I remain confident in the White House's assertion that the President was involved in no wrongdoing -- was not part of any collusion. The things that have to do with Mr. Manafort, I would refer you to his attorneys to address that.

Q Sarah, given what the President said this morning that Robert Mueller is "ruining" people's lives, is he considering a pardon for Paul Manafort, or for others who were prosecuted and have been prosecuted?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not aware of any conversations for anyone's pardon involving this process at all.

Q And if I can follow up -- he also said this morning Mueller is "doing TREMENDOUS damage" to the criminal justice system. If that's true, is he considering picking up the phone, calling his acting Attorney General, and saying, "Fire Robert Mueller?"

MS. SANDERS: Look, I think that the President has had Robert Mueller doing his job for the last two years, and he could've taken action at any point, and he hasn't. So we'll let that speak for itself.

THE PRESIDENT: So is he (inaudible) it out now?

MS. SANDERS: He has no intent to do anything.

Zeke.

Q Thanks, Sarah. Over the weekend, we saw some powerful images of children, as well as adults, who were affected by tear gas fired by U.S. officers along the U.S.-Mexico border. We heard the President talk about that at length yesterday. But one thing we did not hear from him was any expression, really, of regret that there were children caught up in this. I was wondering, does the White House regret the fact that children were affected by tear gas, and that this situation took place? And are they -- is there an investigation underway to prevent this from happening again?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly the White House would never want children to be in harm's way in any capacity whatsoever.

However, that is why we are continuing to encourage people to follow the law and go to ports of entry. Law enforcement officials have used appropriate, non-lethal force to protect themselves, and prevent an illegal rush across the border.

And let's also not forget that this isn't the first time that non-lethal force like this has been used. In fact, tear gas was used on average once a month during the Obama administration for very similar circumstances. In fact, they were actually for far less circumstances, because they didn't have the same numbers in the mass rush that we're seeing in this caravan take place.

Certainly no one wants women or children or any individuals to have this happen, which is why we've encouraged them to actually follow the law and go to ports of entry.

Q And, Sarah, if I may, can I just follow up real quick on something that Ambassador Bolton actually -- when he ruled out a bilat that the President and MBS -- is the White House ruling out any interaction between the President and the Saudi Crown Prince, and is he sort of in the equivalent of a diplomatic time-out?

MS. SANDERS: I wouldn't say that we've ruled out any interaction. I know that the President's schedule is pretty packed and has a number of sessions that he'll be involved in with the G20, as well as a number of bilats. I don't think there is any time for us to add anything additional. Whether or not there is some interaction, I'm not going to rule that out and we'll keep you guys posted as to what happens tomorrow.

Q Thanks, Sarah. Yesterday in Mississippi at his rally, the President said -- he asked a question about Mike Espy. He said, "How does he fit in with Mississippi? I mean, how does he fit in?" I guess suggesting that he doesn't fit in. I mean, Mike Espy's great-grandparents were slaves in Mississippi. What did the President mean by that?

MS. SANDERS: Due to the fact that is an election that is taking place today, I'm not going to comment on anything that could affect anything taking place in Mississippi. And I'm certainly happy to comment on that after today.

Jon.

Q Thanks a lot Sarah.

Q But the President was talking (inaudible) --

MS. SANDERS: The President is not guided by the Hatch Act.

Jon, go ahead.

Q Thanks a lot, Sarah. Does the administration have a position on the President of Ecuador continuing to provide asylum to Julian Assange at its embassy in London?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not aware of anything official. I'd have to get back to you.

Q Just one more on that, if I may, Sarah. Will you, from the podium, call on the Ecuadorian government to confirm whether or not some sort of meeting may have taken place between Paul Manafort and Julian Assange at its embassy?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly we encourage the process to continue to play out, but I'm not going to get engaged in specifics of that case.

Weijia.

Q Sarah, President Trump has implied that a potential new deal with Mexico is a done deal, tweeting that migrants will stay in Mexico as they wait for their cases of asylum to be processed. How far along are talks with the new Mexican administration about the so-called "Remain in Mexico" policy?

MS. SANDERS: Those conversations continue. We won't have a final decision until the new government actually takes over, which will happen on Saturday. And on Monday, we expect the Foreign -- the new Foreign Minister for Mexico to meet and sit down with White House administration officials and the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and continue and try to finalize those conversations.

Q A second question on Khashoggi because, tomorrow, Secretaries Pompeo and Mattis will brief the full Senate on the murder. Why is a leader of a U.S. intelligence agency not joining them -- specifically Gina Haspel, who many senators expect to hear from?

MS. SANDERS: Ambassador Bolton addressed this. I'm not going to comment on behalf of the CIA Director in that capacity. That's something that I would direct you to them to answer.

Q Sarah, I want to ask you about the climate assessment that your administration released last week. The President, yesterday, when asked about the economic forecast, essentially said he didn't believe it.

The takeaway for many people is that the President doesn't feel necessarily a responsibility to lead, either in this country or in the world, on climate change and preventing the calamity that your administration forecasts. Do you agree with that view? And if not, why not?

MS. SANDERS: The President is certainly lean- -- leading on what matters most in this process. And that's on having clean air, clean water. In fact, the United States continues to be a leader on that front. Even Obama's undersecretary for science didn't believe the radical conclusions of the report that was released.

And you have to look at the fact that this report is based on the most extreme modeled scenario, which contradicts long-established trends. Modeling the climate is an extremely complicated science that is never exact.

The biggest thing that we can do is focus on how to make sure we have the cleanest air, the cleanest water. And the President is certainly doing that and certainly leading on that front.

Q Sarah, how is he doing that? I mean, the President is about to go to Buenos Aires and meet with all the leaders of the world's industrialized nations -- and developing nations, as well. Isn't this a great opportunity for him to sit at the table and say, "Folks, this is what my administration just reported. This is the time that we all have to act in concert to prevent what my administration is forecasting"?

MS. SANDERS: Once again, we think that this is the most extreme version and it's not based on facts. It's based on -- it's not data-driven. We'd like to see something that is more data-driven. It's based on modeling, which is extremely hard to do when you're talking about the climate.

Again, our focus is on making sure we have the safest, cleanest air and water. And the President is going to do exactly that.

April.

Q Sarah, I want to go back to GM. President Trump early on in January 2017 met with the big three automakers, and he said he wanted to make the U.S. a more attractive place for companies to manufacture products by lowering taxes and business regulations. What does this move, this action by GM say?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly, it's disappointing to see that GM decided to lay off these workers. The President has been extremely committed to bringing manufacturing jobs back to the United States, which is why, since he took office, we've seen 400,000 new manufacturing jobs created in the United States. It's because of his policies that we've seen that grow.

This is not about the President; it's about the fact that they're making a car, frankly, that people don't want to buy. And hopefully they will make adjustments and make changes and bring those workers back.

Jim.

Q Sarah, getting back to Paul Manafort and the Special Counsel's office saying that he's violating the terms of his plea agreement by lying to investigators. Would the President recommend that Mr. Manafort begin to cooperate, offer full cooperation to the Special Counsel's office?

MS. SANDERS: We can only speak to what our role is in that process. And not only has the President, but the entire administration has been fully cooperative with the Special Counsel's office, providing hours and hours of sit-downs, as well as over 4 million pages in documents.

We continue to be cooperative, but we also know that there was no collusion and we're ready for this to wrap up.

Q And if I could ask a follow-up? The President doesn't believe the warnings in the climate report. The President doesn't believe the CIA when it comes to Jamal Khashoggi. The President doesn't believe the --

MS. SANDERS: That's not accurate.

Q -- intelligence community when it comes to Russia meddling. Why doesn't he have faith in his advisors?

MS. SANDERS: That's not true. The President has a great deal of faith in the intelligence community and certainly in the team that he has assembled around him.

However, I've addressed the climate report. There's really nothing else to add on that front.

Q But on Khashoggi, you said that that was not true, that he doesn't believe the CIA. He said the other day: Maybe MBS did, maybe he didn't -- the Crown Prince.

MS. SANDERS: And we haven't seen definitive evidence come from our intelligence community that ties him directly to that. What we have seen is a number of individuals that we know are tied to that and those individuals have been sanctioned. The people that we have no doubt about their involvement, we've taken action on. And as he said, we'll see what happens beyond that. And if there is more definitive information, we'll make a decision at that point.

Roberta.

Q Sarah, the "Remain in Mexico" meeting that you talked about on Monday, is that happening here or in Mexico? And is the United States offering Mexico any international assistance to help accommodate the migrants seeking asylum who would be staying in Mexico as a result?

MS. SANDERS: Sorry, on that second question, do you mind repeating that? I was -- the first part on whether or not the meeting is here or in Mexico, I'll get back to you on that. I'm not sure on the exact location.

Q Okay. Is the United States offering Mexico any financial assistance, or does the United States plan to, to accommodate the migrants who would be staying in Mexico as a result?

MS. SANDERS: I'm not aware of financial assistance, but certainly we'll keep you posted if (inaudible).

Q Just to clean up -- just to clean up on the bilats. You mentioned in your list a bilat with the Chancellor of Germany, but the Ambassador did not. Has that bilat been canceled?

MS. SANDERS: No, it hasn't. I just think he was giving additional updates on the one that I didn't mention.

John.

Q Sarah, the President tweeted at length yesterday about the Mueller report, asking if it was going to show both sides. What are his concerns about any forthcoming Mueller report? And as that report is supposed to be delivered to no one else by the attorney general, is he concerned that's it going to become public without his knowledge?

MS. SANDERS: I don't think the President has any concerns about the report because he knows that there was no wrongdoing by him and that there was no collusion. So I don't think he has concern on that front.

Q If he has no concerns, why is he tweeting so vociferously about it?

MS. SANDERS: Certainly the President has voiced his unhappiness from the beginning that this has gone on -- this ridiculous witch hunt -- for more than two years. Still nothing that ties anything to the President, and we'd like to see it come to conclusion.

Peter.

Q Thank you, Sarah. Does the President believe that the work of the Special Prosecutor Bob Mueller is illegitimate?

MS. SANDERS: I'm sorry?

Q Does the President believe that the prosecutions -- the indictments of Bob Mueller are illegitimate?

MS. SANDERS: I think the President believes that what I've said several times today and several times over the last couple of years -- that there was no wrongdoing on his part; there was no collusion by his campaign. And beyond that, that's really all we can speak about here at the White House.

Last question. Hallie.

Q Thank you. Two questions for you. The President, as you were speaking, is tweeting that he is going to be considering cutting all GM subsidies, including for electric cars. Can you explain why -- he says that he thinks that would help American workers. Can you explain why that wouldn't end up backfiring as we've already seen, and who the President has consulted, and what a timeline is for this decision?

MS. SANDERS: I don't know that there is a specific timeline. As he said, he's looking into what those options might look like. The President wants to see American companies build cars here in America, not build them overseas. And he is hopeful that GM will continue to do that here.

Second question.

Q And my second question for you is on Afghanistan. The President, on Thanksgiving Day, told U.S. troops that we are winning the war in Afghanistan, which contradicted what the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said -- that it was a stalemate. Does the President today still believe, after what we saw over the weekend, that we are winning in Afghanistan? And why?

MS. SANDERS: Certainty anytime you have a loss of life, particularly by an American service member, it is a horrific tragedy and something that no President wants to see, certainly not during their administration. And the President wants to make sure that the battle that we're fighting takes place there and not here. And he's going to continue consulting with his national security team and make decisions on how best to move forward beyond that.

Thanks so much, guys. Have a great day.

END 2:19 P.M. EST

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From: TASS Agency (b)(6) on behalf of TASS Agency
Sent: Saturday, November 17, 2018 1:41 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Query from TASS on Trump call with (b)(6)

Dear all,

Sarah Sanders told that the President did speak with CIA Director Haspel about Mr. Khashoggi murder during the flight to California.

Do you intent to publish any statement on this call? If yes, please send me.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Anton

--

Anton Chudakov
Senior correspondent
TASS News Agency of Russia

1004 National Press Bldg
Washington DC 20045

(b)(6) office
cell

From: (b)(3) CIAAct
Sent: (b)(6) Saturday, December 15, 2018 11:49 PM
To: Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Khashoggi/Saudi Story for Comment

(b)(5)

----- Original Message -----

From: "Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC" (b)(6)
Date: Sat, Dec 15, 2018, 7:02 PM
To: @ucia.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Khashoggi/Saudi Story for Comment (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

see below. (b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jenna McLaughlin (b)(6)
Date: December 14, 2018 at 6:31:07 PM EST
To: "Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC" <(b)(6)>
Cc: Jenna McLaughlin (b)(6), "Sanders, Sarah H. EOP/WHO"
(b)(6)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Khashoggi/Saudi Story for Comment

Yes, we have reached out to additional parties. The relevant part to the White House is what I laid out below; that there is distance between White House statements and intelligence analysis, and that the IC has already provided its assessments and is not still working on gathering information.

If there is nothing new on that front, then let me know.

I understand others have covered some of this ground, but we are just hoping to write our own piece.

Jenna

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 14, 2018, at 6:09 PM, Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC
(b)(6) wrote:

+ Sarah,

Off record: Jenna, it's all been Reported and fairly extensively.

Have you reached out to the CIA? And how about Saudi?

Can you please provide more clarity on what your specifically asking us to push back on or explain?

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 14, 2018, at 5:22 PM, Jenna McLaughlin

(b)(6) wrote:

Hi Garrett,

Jenna McLaughlin here. I've been working on a story with my colleague concerning the fallout from Jamal Khashoggi's death, including the apparent distance between policymakers at the White House and the conclusions of the intelligence community—provided in multiple briefings to the WH and Capitol Hill; many lawmakers have spoken publicly about the information and many reporters have covered the conclusions in stories.

I am told that all the relevant information about Khashoggi's death has been provided, despite WH officials' claims that the IC is still working on its assessments, and the idea that the IC is meant to provide a more specific conclusion or policy recommendation is separate from the IC's job as information gatherers—leading to some frustration and feelings that the IC's role is being misrepresented.

Our story also covers the intelligence relationship between Saudi Arabia and the U.S., and how that bond complicates our response to Khashoggi's death.

I understand a lot of this has been reported already, but we wanted to give you a chance to provide comment.

I'm sorry it's late on a Friday, it's been a crazy week, but if there's any chance you could get back to us this evening or sometime this weekend we were hoping for the chance to run the piece this weekend. If you need more time, let me know.

Best,
Jenna

(b)(6)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) (b)(6) on behalf of Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 7:06 AM
To: (b)(3) (b)(3) CIAAct
Cc: (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) DNI-Media
Subject: (b)(6) Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Khashoggi

Thanks, so I'm reporting that you all have no comment.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter
NBC News
(b)(6)

On Oct 10, 2018, at 12:00 PM, (b)(3) @dni.gov> wrote:

Hi Ken,

ODNI doesn't have anything to offer on this.

Best,

Charles Carithers
Media Relations
ODNI
(b)(3) (mobile)

From: (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov>
Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 6:53:33 AM
To: "Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)" <(b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov>, (b)(3) @dni.gov>, (b)(3)
(b)(3)
Cc: "DNI-Media" <DNI-Media@dni.gov>
Subject: Re: Khashoggi

Hi Ken,

I don't expect that CIA will have anything to say on this, but I will reach out if I'm missing something here. Meanwhile, I'm adding DNI-Media as I see you included Kellie, who is out of office this week.

Best,

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: "Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)" (b)(6)
Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 2:49:14 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov>, (b)(3) @dni.gov> (b)(3)
(b)(3) (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov>
Subject: Khashoggi (b)(6)

Good morning. Please provide a comment on the record at your earliest convenience in response to the Wash Post report that US intel agencies learned of a plan to grab him. Critics are saying there was a legal duty to warn him. Is that true, and was he warned? Thanks.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter
NBC News
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 10:31 PM
To: Sanders, Sarah H. EOP/WHO; Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC
Cc: Nauert, Heather N; Walters, Lindsay E. EOP/WHO; Gidley, Hogan H. EOP/WHO; Palladino, Robert J; Greenan, Robert J; Raines, Robert A. EOP/NSC
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Seeking comment

Apologies for the delay, we also declined to comment.

----- Original Message ----- (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: "Sanders, Sarah H. EOP/WHO" (b)(6)
Date: Fri, Nov 30, 2018, 9:30 PM
To: "Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC" (b)(6)
CC: "Nauert, Heather N" <NauertHN@state.gov>, (b)(6)@ucia.gov, "Walters, Lindsay E. EOP/WHO" (b)(6), "Gidley, Hogan H. EOP/WHO" (b)(6), "Palladino, Robert J" <PalladinoRJ@state.gov>, "Greenan, Robert J" <GreenanRJ@state.gov>, "Raines, Robert A. EOP/NSC" (b)(6)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Seeking comment

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 30, 2018, at 11:28 PM, Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC (b)(6) wrote:

(b)(5)

On Nov 30, 2018, at 9:21 PM, Nauert, Heather N <NauertHN@state.gov> wrote:

(b)(5)

From: Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC (b)(6)
Date: November 30, 2018 at 8:39:57 PM GMT-3
To: Sanders, Sarah H. EOP/WHO (b)(6), Nauert, Heather N <NauertHN@state.gov>, (b)(6)@ucia.gov
Cc: Walters, Lindsay E. EOP/WHO (b)(6), Gidley, Hogan H. EOP/WHO (b)(6), Palladino, Robert J <PalladinoRJ@state.gov>, Greenan, Robert J <GreenanRJ@state.gov>, Raines, Robert A. (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Seeking comment

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Leary, Alex" (b)(6)
Date: November 30, 2018 at 7:08:35 PM GMT-3
To: Garrett.c.marquis (b)(6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Seeking comment

Garrett, the Wall Street Journal is planning to publish a story early tomorrow that will reveal new details of the U.S. intelligence community's classified assessment of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's role in the death of Jamal Khashoggi.

To be specific, we are reporting that the CIA has concluded:

_ The Crown Prince in August 2017 noted that if his efforts to lure Khashoggi back to Saudi Arabia were unsuccessful "we could possibly lure him outside Saudi Arabia and make arrangements" - comments that appear to foreshadow the operation against Khashoggi in Turkey.

_ The Crown Prince messaged Saud al-Qahtani at least 11 times in the hours before and after the operation in Turkey.

_ The Crown Prince since 2015 has ordered Qahtani and the Center for Studies and Media Affairs, which Qahtani oversaw, to target his opponents domestically and abroad, sometimes violently.

_ The CIA concludes with "medium-to-high confidence" that the Crown Prince authorized the operation against Khashoggi, and probably ordered his death. The CIA does not have direct evidence of the Crown Prince issuing a kill order.

We would welcome comment, as detailed as possible.

Thank you.

Alex Leary
The Wall Street Journal
(b)(6)

From: Christopher Sheridan (b)(6) on behalf of Christopher Sheridan
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 7:36 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Cc: (b)(6) Kimberly Halkett
Subject: Re: Al Jazeera Request

Right. Thanks.

Chris Sheridan
Senior White House Producer
Al Jazeera English
(b)(6)
@ChrisSheridan34

Sent from my iPhone

(b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)
On Nov 16, 2018, at 7:09 PM, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6) @ucia.gov<mailto:(b)(6)@ucia.gov>> wrote:

Hi Chris,

Thanks for reaching out. We don't have any guidance. You can note CIA declined to comment.

Take care, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)
CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)

From: Christopher Sheridan (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 6:42 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov<mailto:(b)(6)@ucia.gov>>
Cc: (b)(6) @ucia.gov<mailto:(b)(6)@ucia.gov>>; Kimberly Halkett
Subject: Re: Al Jazeera Request (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)

Hi (b)(6) ..any response to the Post story on MBS involvement in the Khashoggi murder? Thanks, as always.

Chris Sheridan
Senior White House Producer (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)
Al Jazeera English (b)(6)
(b)(6)
@ChrisSheridan34

(b)(3) CIAAct

Sent from my iPhone

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

On Oct 25, 2018, at 5:12 PM, [redacted]@ucia.gov<mailto:[redacted]@ucia.gov>> wrote:
Hi Chris,

Thank you for your email. We don't have any guidance.

Thanks again, [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: Christopher Sheridan [redacted] (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 5:02 PM

(b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov<mailto:[redacted]@ucia.gov>>; Kimberly Halkett

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6) [redacted] (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Al Jazeera Request

Hey [redacted], stepping in here...any chance we can get an idea of how the meeting with the President went today? Even any background details (how long etc)? Thanks, in advance.

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

Chris Sheridan

Senior White House Producer

Al Jazeera English

Mobile: [redacted] (b)(6)

Work: [redacted] (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(3) CIAAct

@ChrisSheridan34 (b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov<mailto:[redacted]@ucia.gov>>

Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 11:48 AM

To: Kimberly Halkett [redacted] (b)(6)

Cc: Christopher Sheridan [redacted] (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov<mailto:[redacted]@ucia.gov>>

Subject: RE: Al Jazeera Request

(b)(3) CIAAct

Hi Kimberly,

Thank you for reaching out. I don't have any guidance to offer on the below questions.

Take care, [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

From: Kimberly Halkett (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct

Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:26 AM

(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

From: (b)(6)@ucia.gov<mailto:(b)(6)@ucia.gov>>

(b)(6)

Cc: Christopher Sheridan (b)(6)

Subject: Al Jazeera Request

(b)(3) CIAAct

Hi (b)(6)

Thanks so much for speaking with me yesterday. Our chat was most helpful as I guide our global audience on this story.

Moving forward, any sense of when Director Haspel and others might be meeting today? When might the President be briefed on the findings of the Turkey/Saudi Arabia intelligence gathering?

Any sense of timing (and players) appreciated.

Many thanks as always,

<image001.png>

Kimberly Halkett

White House Correspondent

Al Jazeera International (USA) Inc.

1200 New Hampshire Ave NW, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20036

M. (b)(6) www.aljazeera.net<http://www.aljazeera.net/>

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From: Martin Smith (b)(6) on behalf of Martin Smith
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2019 3:48 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Re: Checking in with Martin (b)(6)

Diplomatic Savagery: the dark secrets of the Cemal Kasikci murder”

[1:25 PM, 2/6/2019] Munir Atalla: P74 the authors describe Gina Haspel listening to the audio. First thing she was played out was a conversation between Saudi team members.

[1:25 PM, 2/6/2019] Munir Atalla: Before the murder—

Mutreb speaking to others in team:

“We will first say ‘we are taking you to Riyadh’ if he doesn’t comply we will kill him here and get rid of the body”

[1:25 PM, 2/6/2019] Munir Atalla: Tubeygi (autopsy dr): “I’ve always worked on cadavers. I know how to cut well. I’ve never worked on a warm body before but I’ll handle it easily. Normally when I am cutting cadavers I put on my headphones and listen to music while drinking my coffee and smoking my cigarette.”

[1:25 PM, 2/6/2019] Munir Atalla: Tubeygi: “Jamal is tall around 180cm. The joints will come off easily on the ‘sacrifice’ (author explains the dr uses the word normally used for sacrifices animals) but cutting it up will still take time. Normally you dismember an animal while it’s hanging. I’ve never done it in the floor. After I cut it up, you can wrap it up in plastic bags, then put it in suitcases and take it out.”

[1:25 PM, 2/6/2019] Munir Atalla: P75 after Kasikci enters consulate at 13:15 team takes him up to consul generals room. While being led up Jamal: “let go of my arm, what do you think you are doing?”

Mutreb as soon as Jamal enters the consul general room: “come sit, we’ve come to take you to Riyadh”

Jamal: “I’m won’t go to Riyadh”

Mutreb tell him to message his son Salah, Jamal refuses says “or what you are going to kill me? You’re going to strangle me?”

Mutreb: “if you cooperate, you will be forgiven.”

[1:25 PM, 2/6/2019] Munir Atalla: Message the team wanted Jamal to send to son Salah: “Son I am in Istanbul. If you can’t reach me for a while do not worry”

[1:25 PM, 2/6/2019] Munir Atalla: Author paraphrased: Jamal’s refusal to even message his son stunned the team, led to a short but deadly silence. They didn’t respond then on orders from mutreb started laying out the cutting tools on the big desk in room. Then suddenly with mutreb’s order 5 members of the assasination team moved to strangle Jamal. First one of them moved to cover his mouth (authors note: most likely al Harbi). Jamal shakes loose but the other 4 move in one of them definitely Zahrani.

Jamal: “don’t cover my mouth!”

“Don’t cover my mouth I have asthma. Stop it, you are going to suffocate me!”

The next 5 minutes are Jamal’s body resisting.

Authors paraphrased: even members of the intel community who are used to this kind of stuff found those 5 minutes hard to hear. The simultaneous translator for Gina Haspel’s eyes watered and voice quivered.

At 13:24 Jamal dies.

[1:25 PM, 2/6/2019] Munir Atalla: Madani and Qahtanis remove Jamal’s clothes. Madani puts on Jamal’s clothes.

[1:25 PM, 2/6/2019] Munir Atalla: Authors paraphrased: it was inevitable that blood would get everywhere during the dismemberment. Tubeygi knew this. That’s why he established a vascular access on the naked body. He withdrew some of the blood with medical equipment and poured it down the bathroom drain.

The banging sound in the audio proved the use of a cleaver type tool. The audio also contained the high pitched sound of a autopsy saw. Tubeygi used this tool to dismember the body. Determined to be autopsy saw by sound analysts and confined with autopsy experts.

[1:25 PM, 2/6/2019] Munir Atalla: During the dismemberment Tubeygi can he heard heard issuing orders shouting "why are you standing around?"

[1:25 PM, 2/6/2019] Munir Atalla: I've asked to confirm some of these details with Turkish sources. Not sure how far I'll get but the book says on p101 'foreign media will want to double check these details, all they have to do is ask their intel sources. They may not provide documents but are in a position to confirm details' book also notes the content of the audio recordings have been shared with the intel services of the following counties: US, UK, Canada, France, and Germany.

[cid:48D9F833-22BF-471A-9810-0CAB43457C33] | Martin Smith

(bio<<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/person/martin-smith/>>) | Producer | Correspondent |

(b)(6) cell

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

On Feb 6, 2019, at 3:40 PM, (b)(6)@ucia.gov>> wrote:

Sorry for delay, Martin; calling in just a moment on your cell.

From: Martin Smith (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2019 1:47 PM

To: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>>

Subject: Re: Checking in with Martin (b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

Sounds good. Call my cell.

<image001.png> | Martin Smith (bio<<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/person/martin-smith/>>) | Producer |

Correspondent | (b)(6) cell

On Feb 6, 2019, at 1:46 PM, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)@ucia.gov>> wrote:

Hi Martin,

Thanks for reaching out. Absolutely. May I give you a call say about 3:30? Best, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)

From: Martin Smith (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2019 1:34 PM

To: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>>

Subject: Re: Checking in with Martin

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(3) CIAAct

Hi (b)(6)

(b)(6)

I am going off to Istanbul on Saturday and I have some things I wanted to run by you for confirmation, denial or no comment. Can we speak today?

Best, Martin.

<image001.png> | Martin Smith (bio<<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/person/martin-smith/>>) | Producer | Correspondent | (b)(6) cell

On Jan 15, 2019, at 7:06 PM, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6) @ucia.gov>> wrote:
(b)(3) CIAAct

Hi Martin!

I was just about to call. I was a bit behind today digging out (pun intended). Happy to chat now, (b)(6) or to call you tomorrow! (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)

From: "Martin Smith" (b)(6) (b)(6)

Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:53:55 PM (b)(3) CIAAct

To: (b)(6) @ucia.gov>> (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Checking in with Martin

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6) Missed the opportunity today. I hope we can speak tomorrow.... Martin

<8B6DA778-D03F-4120-9E5D-23518C5D91D8[28].png> | Martin Smith
(bio<<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/person/martin-smith/>>) | Producer | Correspondent | (b)(6) cell

On Jan 14, 2019, at 11:59 AM, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6) @ucia.gov>> wrote:

Hi Martin,

I'm back from vacation but out of office today because of DC snow. I will give you a call tomorrow as I anticipate I'll be back at work

Best,
(b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)

From: "Martin Smith" (b)(6)

Date: Monday, January 14, 2019 at 11:45:05 AM

To: (b)(6) @ucia.gov>>

Subject: Fwd: Checking in with Martin (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)

Hi (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)

I wrote too soon and so the message below produced a vacation reply. Trying again... Next week I get very busy and then I am off to Saudi Arabia again. I am hoping we can do something this week if possible. I am in NYC but can come down anytime to DC.

Best, Martin.

<8B6DA778-D03F-4120-9E5D-23518C5D91D8[28].png> | Martin Smith
(bio<<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/person/martin-smith/>>) | Producer | Correspondent |
(b)(6) cell

Begin forwarded message:

From: Martin Smith (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Checking in with Martin

Date: January 9, 2019 at 3:31:26 PM EST

To: (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov>>
(b)(6) (b)(6)

Hi

I hope you had a restful vacation. As agreed I am cycling back to see about a briefing. Let me know when we can discuss this.

Thanks.

<8B6DA778-D03F-4120-9E5D-23518C5D91D8[28].png> | Martin Smith
(bio<<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/person/martin-smith/>>) | Producer | Correspondent |
(b)(6) cell

On Jan 3, 2019, at 5:09 PM, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6) @ucia.gov>> wrote:

Terrific; thanks, Martin! I'm on vacation next week. May we connect the following week to continue the conversation? Of course, should anything be urgent, I'm always available. Best,

(b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) (b)(6)

Central Intelligence Agency

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Martin Smith (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2019 2:45 PM
To: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>>
Subject: Re: Checking in with Martin (b)(3) CIAAct
Hi (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)

Ah yes. Great.

I am putting together a FRONTLINE hour for air in May regarding MBS. I have met him twice, most recently I spent some time with talking him last month in Riyadh. We spoke of many things including the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. He brought up some things regarding the 11 Qahtani texts that I wanted to run by you guys as well as some other things.

Back when I was working on bin Laden stuff I came for a briefing at the agency. Is that something I could arrange through you?

Will be good to see you again.

Thanks,

Martin

<image001.png> | Martin Smith (bio<<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/person/martin-smith/>>) | Producer | Correspondent (b)(6) cell

On Jan 3, 2019, at 2:38 PM, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)@ucia.gov>> wrote:

Hi Martin!

I hear you're looking for me! (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)
(b)(6) and am happy to assist.

Best,
(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Central Intelligence Agency
(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

<image001.jpg>

From: Kissel, Mary E (S) <KisselME2@state.gov> on behalf of Kissel, Mary E (S)
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 6:06 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: (b)(6) RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6) very nice to meet you, and thanks for looping me in. My contact details, for your files:

Mary E. Kissel

Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State

202.647.5228 (work)

(b)(6) (mobile)

KisselME2@state.gov

Official

UNCLASSIFIED (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From:
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 6:01 PM
To: Greenan, Robert J ; 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' ; Palladino, Robert J
Cc: Raines, Robert A. ; Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC ; Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC ; Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC ; Kissel, Mary E (S)
Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

Hi Robert,

Thank you for including Mary. I don't have any further updates since you and I spoke; we're still expecting the story to publish this evening. I'll keep everyone on this chain apprised.

Thanks again, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Greenan, Robert J <GreenanRJ@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 5:37 PM
To: @ucia.gov>; 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' <(b)(6)> Palladino, Robert J <PalladinoRJ@state.gov>
Cc: Raines, Robert A. (b)(6) Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC (b)(6) Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC (b)(6) Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC (b)(6) Kissel, Mary E (S) <KisselME2@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

[redacted] I am adding in Mary Kissel to this chain. Mary is a Senior Advisor for Comms to the Secretary. I briefed her on the story. [redacted] (b)(5) Please keep her in the loop, too, as the story comes out.

Thank you, Robert

Official (b)(3) CIAAct
UNCLASSIFIED (b)(6)

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 1:48 PM
To: 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' [redacted] (b)(6); Palladino, Robert J <PalladinoRJ@state.gov>; Greenan, Robert J <GreenanRJ@state.gov>
Cc: Raines, Robert A. [redacted] (b)(6) Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC [redacted] (b)(6) Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC [redacted] (b)(6) Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC [redacted] (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

Thank you, Lauren, for your email.

Robert and Robert: Please feel free to give me a call to discuss further.

Thanks again, [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

[redacted]
CIA Office of Public Affairs
(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC [redacted] (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 1:24 PM
To: [redacted]@ucia.gov>; Palladino, Robert J <PalladinoRJ@state.gov>; GreenanRJ@state.gov
Cc: Raines, Robert A. EOP/NSC [redacted] (b)(6) Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC [redacted] (b)(6)
Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC [redacted] (b)(6) Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC [redacted] (b)(6)
Subject: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Hi Robert and Robert,

(b)(3) CIAAct

Please connect with [redacted] at CIA, cc'd, ASAP on a story that's about to drop on Khashoggi. Her number is [redacted]
[redacted] (b)(5)

Thank you!
Lauren

Lauren Ehram
Director for Strategic Communications
Office of Strategic Communications
White House National Security Council
[redacted] (b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC (b)(6) on behalf of Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC
Sent: (b)(3) CIAAct Friday, November 16, 2018 7:32 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Greenan, Robert J; Ehrsam, Lauren E. EOP/NSC; Palladino, Robert J; Raines, Robert A. EOP/NSC; Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC; Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC; Kissel, Mary E (S); Buangan, Richard EOP; Nauert, Heather N
Subject: Re: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

(b)(5)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

On Nov 16, 2018, at 7:23 PM, (b)(6)@ucia.gov>> wrote:

Thank you, Robert. We've engaged with about 20 outlets since the story broke – we're providing no guidance and declining to comment.

From: Greenan, Robert J <GreenanRJ@state.gov<mailto:GreenanRJ@state.gov>> (b)(3) CIAAct
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 7:17 PM (b)(6)
To: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>>; 'Ehrsam, Lauren E. EOP/NSC'
(b)(6) Palladino, Robert J
<PalladinoRJ@state.gov<mailto:PalladinoRJ@state.gov>>
Cc: Raines, Robert A. (b)(6) 'Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC'
(b)(6) 'Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC'
(b)(6) 'Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC'
(b)(6) Kissel, Mary E (S)
<KisselME2@state.gov<mailto:KisselME2@state.gov>>; Buangan, Richard L
<BuanganRL@state.gov<mailto:BuanganRL@state.gov>>; Nauert, Heather N
<NauertHN@state.gov<mailto:NauertHN@state.gov>>
Subject: Re: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

(b)(5)

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone. (b)(3) CIAAct
From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 6:24 PM
To: Greenan, Robert J; 'Ehrsam, Lauren E. EOP/NSC'; Palladino, Robert J
Cc: Raines, Robert A.; 'Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC'; 'Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC'; 'Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC'; Kissel, Mary E (S)
Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

The story just published. Here is the link<>https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/cia-concludes-saudi-crown-prince-ordered-jamal-khashoggis-assassination/2018/11/16/98c89fe6-e9b2-11e8-a939-9469f1166f9d_story.html?utm_term=.1aa6916dbd6b<>.

From: (b)(3) CIAAct
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 6:01 PM (b)(6)

To: 'Greenan, Robert J' <GreenanRJ@state.gov<mailto:GreenanRJ@state.gov>>; 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC'

(b)(6); Palladino, Robert J

<PalladinoRJ@state.gov<mailto:PalladinoRJ@state.gov>>

Cc: Raines, Robert A. (b)(6); Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC

(b)(6) Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC

(b)(6) Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC

Kissel, Mary E (S)

<KisselME2@state.gov<mailto:KisselME2@state.gov>>

Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

Hi Robert,

Thank you for including Mary. I don't have any further updates since you and I spoke; we're still expecting the story to publish this evening. I'll keep everyone on this chain apprised.

Thanks again, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: Greenan, Robert J <GreenanRJ@state.gov<mailto:GreenanRJ@state.gov>>

Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 5:37 PM

To: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>; 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC'

(b)(6) Palladino, Robert J

<PalladinoRJ@state.gov<mailto:PalladinoRJ@state.gov>>

Cc: Raines, Robert A. (b)(6); Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC

(b)(6) Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC

(b)(6) Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC

Kissel, Mary E (S)

<KisselME2@state.gov<mailto:KisselME2@state.gov>>

Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6) I am adding in Mary Kissel to this chain. Mary is a Senior Advisor for Comms to the Secretary. I briefed her on the story. (b)(5) Please keep her in the loop, too, as the story comes out.

Thank you, Robert

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>>

Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 1:48 PM

To: 'Ehram, Lauren E. EOP/NSC' (b)(6); Palladino,

Robert J <PalladinoRJ@state.gov<mailto:PalladinoRJ@state.gov>>; Greenan, Robert J

<GreenanRJ@state.gov<mailto:GreenanRJ@state.gov>>

Cc: Raines, Robert A. (b)(6); Weik, Tonia N. EOP/NSC

(b)(6); Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC

Subject: RE: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

Thank you, Lauren, for your email.

Robert and Robert: Please feel free to give me a call to discuss further.

Thanks again, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: Ehrsam, Lauren E. EOP/NSC <(b)(6)>

Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 1:24 PM

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

<(b)(6)>@ucia.gov>>; Palladino, Robert J
<PalladinoRJ@state.gov<mailto:PalladinoRJ@state.gov>>; GreenanRJ@state.gov<mailto:GreenanRJ@state.gov>
Cc: Raines, Robert A. EOP/NSC <(b)(6)> (b)(6); Weik, Tonia N.
EOP/NSC <(b)(6)>

Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC

Brown, J. Cale C. EOP/NSC

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Connecting on Khashoggi Story

(b)(3) CIAAct

Hi Robert and Robert, (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

Please connect with (b)(6) at CIA, cc'd, ASAP on a story that's about to drop on Khashoggi. Her number is (b)(6)

(b)(5)

Thank you!

Lauren

Lauren Ehrsam

Director for Strategic Communications

Office of Strategic Communications

White House National Security Council

(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2018 11:24 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: EMBARGOED: Treasury Sanctions 17 Individuals for Their Roles in the Killing of Jamal Khashoggi

Hi Mark,
Thanks for reaching out – we don't have any guidance on this one.
Take care, [redacted]

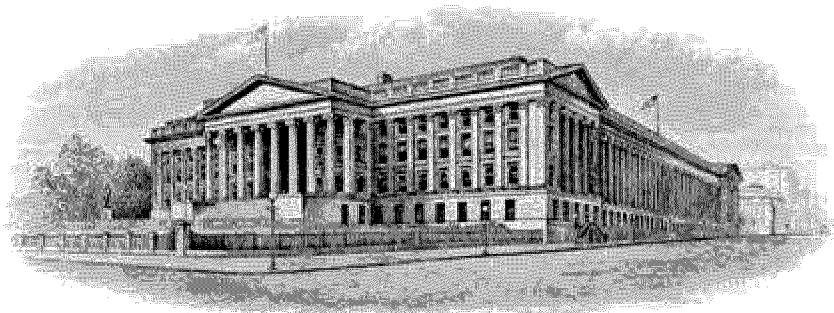
(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Hosenball, Mark J. (Reuters)
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2018 10:35 AM

To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: EMBARGOED: Treasury Sanctions 17 Individuals for Their Roles in the Killing of Jamal Khashoggi
Apropos of this list, it was reported that one of these guys recently died ahem in a car crash:
<https://www.businessinsider.com/khashoggi-suspect-mashal-saad-al-bostani-reportedly-dead-in-car-crash-2018-10?op=1>

Do you know if that is true ? or maybe I should ask it two ways: do you know for sure if the guy is dead ? and is it true that he died in a car crash, or if not any idea how he really did die ? thoughts most welcome indeed. Tks & rgds mh

From: [redacted] (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2018 10:01:05 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: [redacted] (b)(6)
Subject: EMBARGOED: Treasury Sanctions 17 Individuals for Their Roles in the Killing of Jamal Khashoggi



U.S. Department of the Treasury Office of Public Affairs

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:30 AM EST: NOVEMBER 15, 2018

Press Release: November 15, 2018

Contact: Treasury Public Affairs, (202) 622-2960

Treasury Sanctions 17 Individuals for Their Roles in the Killing of Jamal Khashoggi

WASHINGTON - Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated Saud al-Qahtani, his subordinate Maher Mutreb, Saudi Consul General Mohammed Alotaibi, and 14 other members of an operations team for having a role in the killing of Jamal Khashoggi. These individuals are

designated pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13818, which builds upon and implements the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, to target perpetrators of serious human rights abuse and corruption. “The Saudi officials we are sanctioning were involved in the abhorrent killing of Jamal Khashoggi. These individuals who targeted and brutally killed a journalist who resided and worked in the United States must face consequences for their actions. The United States continues to diligently work to ascertain all of the facts and will hold accountable each of those we find responsible in order to achieve justice for Khashoggi’s fiancée, children, and the family he leaves behind,” said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. “The Government of Saudi Arabia must take appropriate steps to end any targeting of political dissidents or journalists.”

Saud Al-Qahtani is a senior official of the Government of Saudi Arabia who was part of the planning and execution of the operation that led to the killing of Mr. Khashoggi in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey on October 2, 2018. This operation was coordinated and executed by his subordinate **Maher Mutreb**, and involved participation of at least 14 other Saudi government officials: **Salah Tubaigy; Meshal Albostani; Naif Alarifi; Mohammed Alzahrani; Mansour Abahussain; Khalid Alotaibi; Abdulaziz Alhawsawi; Waleed Alsehri; Thaar Alharbi; Fahad Albalawi; Badr Alotaibi; Mustafa Almadani; Saif Alqahtani; and Turki Alsehri.** The Saudi consulate in Istanbul, where Mr. Khashoggi was killed, was overseen by Consul General **Mohammed Alotaibi**. All of these individuals are designated for being responsible for, or complicit in, or having directly or indirectly engaged in serious human rights abuse.

As a result of these designations, any property or interests in property of the individuals designated today within or transiting U.S. jurisdiction is blocked. Additionally, U.S. persons are generally prohibited from engaging in transactions with blocked persons, including entities 50 percent or more owned by designated persons.

GLOBAL MAGNITSKY

Building upon the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, on December 20, 2017, the President signed E.O. 13818, “Blocking the Property of Persons Involved in Serious Human Rights Abuse or Corruption,” in which the President found that the prevalence of human rights abuse and corruption that have their source, in whole or in part, outside the United States, had reached such scope and gravity that it threatens the stability of international political and economic systems. Human rights abuse and corruption undermine the values that form an essential foundation of stable, secure, and functioning societies; have devastating impacts on individuals; weaken democratic institutions; degrade the rule of law; perpetuate violent conflicts; facilitate the activities of dangerous persons; and undermine economic markets. The United States seeks to impose tangible and significant consequences on those who commit serious human rights abuse or engage in corruption, as well as to protect the financial system of the United States from abuse by these same persons.

To date, 101 individuals and entities have been sanctioned under E.O. 13818. This is in addition to the numerous human rights or corruption related designations Treasury has issued under various other authorities. In total, since January of 2017, Treasury has taken action against over 460 individuals and entities engaged in activities related to, or directly involving, human rights abuse and/or corruption. The Treasury Department has also published advisories to U.S. financial institutions on human rights abuses enabled by corrupt senior foreign political figures and their financial facilitators that can be found [here](#), as well as advisories related to some of the programs listed above, which can be found [here](#).

This Administration will continue to take action against human rights abuse and corruption-related targets around the globe, including implementing sanctions under Global Magnitsky and other authorities.

####

From: Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC <(b)(6)> on behalf of Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2019 5:23 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Cc: (b)(6) Sanders, Sarah H. EOP/WHO; Gidley, Hogan H. EOP/WHO; Walters, Lindsay E. EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: For Garrett -- Hello/New York Times

(b)(3) CIAAct
Thanks, (b)(6)

+ WH Press for awareness. (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 7, 2019 5:16 PM
To: Marquis, Garrett C. EOP/NSC (b)(3) CIAAct
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: For Garrett -- Hello/New York Times

(b)(3) CIAAct
Hi Garrett, (b)(6)

Here is what Mark sent to IC agencies today. He had already shared the below with the Saudi Embassy for comment. Best, (b)(6)

This is Mark Mazzetti with The New York Times. I hope you are well.

I'm writing because we are preparing a story for today about some updates in the IC assessment on Jamal Khashoggi's death. The NSA has been transcribing more stored conversations of Mohammed bin Salman, and this effort has yielded more evidence that the crown prince intended to kill Khashoggi if he did not return to KSA. Here are some details that we are planning to report:

1. In September 2017, MBS has a conversation with Turki Aldakhil, one of his top advisers and the head of Al Arabiya network, saying that if Khashoggi could not be enticed to return to KSA with an Al Arabiya job, he would be taken back forcibly. If that didn't work, MBS said, they would "use a bullet."
2. Days earlier, MBS has a conversation with Saad al Qahtani. They discuss how JK has become a big problem for the kingdom. Qahtani says that it could cause international blowback if something was done to JK, and MBS said that Saudi Arabia shouldn't worry about that. There is a direct quote from one of the intel reports I intend to use that says MBS said he "did not like half-measures. He never liked them and did not believe in them."
3. The ongoing effort in the IC is to go back several years on MBS's communication to gather more evidence of his role in the operation.

I have not seen the reports myself but have spoken to sources who have.

I thought it was best to lay this all out in an email, but if you want I'm available to chat anytime that's convenient for you.

Best
Mark

--

The New York Times

(b)(6)

Book Website: markmazzetti.net

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 2:34 PM
To: 'Hosenball, Mark J. (Reuters)'
Cc: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]
Subject: RE: GRAPHIC IMAGES: leaked photos of alleged Khashoggi dismemberment

Mark, as per our conversation today, here is the link I mentioned.

<https://www.inquisitr.com/5166347/graphic-photos-of-jamal-khashoggis-dismemberment-go-viral-but-generate-douts/>

Best,

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Hosenball, Mark J. (Reuters) (b)(3) CIAAct
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 6:29 PM (b)(6)
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: GRAPHIC IMAGES: leaked photos of alleged Khashoggi dismemberment

(b)(3) CIAAct

Subject: GRAPHIC IMAGES

Eds want me to inquire if you think these nasty Kashoggi photos leaked by Turkey are legitimate? There have been bogus photos circulated before.

<https://al-sura.com/breaking-turkey-leaks-photos-of-jamal-khashoggis-dismemberment-by-saudi-authorities/>

Big tks mh

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 7:30 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]
Subject: (b)(6) Re: Guardian calling re questions regarding Jamal Khashoggi

Yep that's solid

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

Central Intelligence Agency

(b)(3) CIAAct

Sent from mobile (b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov> (b)(3) CIAAct
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 7:14:33 PM (b)(6)
To: [redacted]@ucia.gov>
Subject: FW: Guardian calling re questions regarding Jamal Khashoggi

I didn't respond to this email yet and feel that just calling the reporter in the AM is the best call. Just wanted to let you know my thoughts on this inquiry.

From: Stephanie Kirchgaessner (b)(3) CIAAct

Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 4:41 PM (b)(6)

To: [redacted]

Subject: Guardian calling re questions regarding Jamal Khashoggi

Hello,

My name is Stephanie Kirchgaessner and I'm an investigative reporter with the Guardian newspaper here in Washington.

I am emailing you some questions for a story we are working on and intend to publish regarding Jamal Khashoggi and US intelligence in the months preceding his murder.

Specifically, we have been given evidence that strongly suggests that a senior US diplomatic official confronted Saudi officials (in Saudi) in February 2018 and indicated to them that US officials were aware of a plan by Saudi Arabia to seek to "repatriate" Jamal Khashoggi back to Saudi Arabia from his home in the US. Saudi officials were told in the confrontation that any such move - essentially to kidnapp Khashoggi, or otherwise force his return to Saudi Arabia - would disrupt the US-Saudi relationship.

The message that was received by the Saudi officials, and was then passed on to Saudi officials here in Washington, based on information that has been leaked to us, is that there was a call to "halt" the operations here in the US.

My questions are: can you offer us any confirmation that the US was aware of a plan dating back to February 2018 by Saudi officials to "repatriate" Khashoggi?

Can you give any insight into the nature of that information, how it was obtained, and how far the Saudis were in executing their alleged plan on US soil?

As far as you know, did the CIA pass this or any similar information on to the US State Department, which took over plans to communicate a message to the Saudis that they needed to stop?

I know this is sensitive but we are seeking as many details as we can about this apparently extraordinary intervention by US officials months before Khashoggi was murdered at the Saudi consulate in Turkey.

My phone number is [redacted] (b)(6) [redacted] and I am happy to talk by phone or have a meeting. Thanks, Stephanie

--

US Investigations Correspondent

[redacted] (b)(6) [redacted]
@skirchy

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(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 3:30 PM
To: 'Meek, James'
Subject: RE: Hi [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Always a pleasure, never a pester.

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: Meek, James
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 3:28 PM
To: [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Re: Hi [redacted] (b)(6)

Okay I'll pester you then, chief. cheers (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

On Nov 14, 2018, at 12:27 PM, [redacted]@ucia.gov> wrote:

Thanks! I don't think I'll be able to get together until after Thanksgiving but look forward to doing so!

From: Meek, James [redacted] (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 3:16 PM
To: [redacted]@ucia.gov> (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Re: Hi [redacted] (b)(6)

Much appreciated — do you have time for lunch on Wednesday upon your return? No *turkey* I swear!

On Nov 14, 2018, at 12:13 PM, [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)@ucia.gov> wrote:

Hey James -- Thanks for reaching out, and I'm sorry I missed you over weekend. We don't have any guidance as I'm sure you'd expect. I'm taking a few days off to head West for a wedding but will be back in office next Tuesday and on mobile in interim. Very Best. [redacted]

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Central Intelligence Agency

(b)(3) CIAAct

-----Original Message-----

From: Meek, James [redacted] (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 3:12 PM

To: [redacted] @ucia.gov>

Subject: Hi [redacted]

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

ABC has been told by top Turkish official that there are two recordings related to the Khashoggi assassination. The recordings contain conversations between the alleged killers, discussing in detail how they would attack and then murder Khashoggi. Second recording is of their discussion with Khashoggi and his subsequent killing.

Realize you may not be able to guide me on what Director Haspel heard or obtained but any help appreciated.

Cheers, James

[redacted] (b)(6)

From: Meek, James (b)(6) on behalf of Meek, James
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 6:22 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)
Subject: (b)(6) Re: Hi (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)

Seeing wapo piece on MBS and of course our people are asking me to ask for guidance.

On Nov 14, 2018, at 12:28 PM, Meek, James (b)(6) wrote:

Okay I'll pester you then, chief. cheers (b)(3) CIAAct

On Nov 14, 2018, at 12:27 PM, (b)(6)@ucia.gov wrote:

Thanks! I don't think I'll be able to get together until after Thanksgiving but look forward to doing so! (b)(3) CIAAct

From: Meek, James <(b)(6)> (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 3:16 PM
To: (b)(6)@ucia.gov

Subject: Re: Hi (b)(6)
Much appreciated — do you have time for lunch on Wednesday upon your return? No *turkey* I swear!

On Nov 14, 2018, at 12:13 PM, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)@ucia.gov wrote:

Hey James -- Thanks for reaching out, and I'm sorry I missed you over weekend. We don't have any guidance as I'm sure you'd expect. I'm taking a few days off to head West for a wedding but will be back in office next Tuesday and on mobile in interim. Very Best. (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Central Intelligence Agency
(b)(3) CIAAct

-----Original Message-----

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: Meek, James <[redacted]>

Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 3:12 PM

To: [redacted]@ucia.gov>

(b)(3) CIAAct

Subject: Hi [redacted]

(b)(6)

ABC has been told by top Turkish official that there are two recordings related to the Khashoggi assassination. The recordings contain conversations between the alleged killers, discussing in detail how they would attack and then murder Khashoggi. Second recording is of their discussion with Khashoggi and his subsequent killing.

Realize you may not be able to guide me on what Director Haspel heard or obtained but any help appreciated.

Cheers. James

(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, October 13, 2018 9:58 AM
To: Riechmann, Deb
Subject: Re: Hi

For sure, haven't heard anything yet

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: "Riechmann, Deb" [redacted] (b)(6)
Date: Saturday, October 13, 2018 at 9:14:55 AM
To: [redacted]@ucia.gov> (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Hi (b)(6)

Can you let me know if something is about to come out from you guys, state, NSC on Khashoggi this weekend? We are all poised for any new info the USA gets. AP interviewed the fiancé yesterday. Trump still saying USA still doesn't know what happened.
Sent from my iPhone
The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 1:55 PM (b)(3) CIAAct
To: 'Hayley Miller'; [redacted]
Subject: RE: HuffPost inquiry URGENT re: Khashoggi

Hi Haley,

You may note CIA declined comment.

Best,
(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Central Intelligence Agency
(b)(3) CIAAct

From: Hayley Miller
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 1:43 PM (b)(3) CIAAct
To: [redacted]
Subject: HuffPost inquiry URGENT re: Khashoggi

Hi there,

Does the CIA have a response to President Trump announcing he intends for the U.S. to stand by Saudi Arabia even if MBS ordered the murder of Jamal Khashoggi? The president said it's unclear if MBS ordered the killing or not. Does this align with the CIA's findings?

You can also reach me at [redacted] (b)(6) Thanks for your time.

--

Hayley Miller
Reporter, /HUFFPOST/
<http://huffpost.com/hayley-miller/>

From: Shesgreen, Deirdre (b)(6) on behalf of Shesgreen, Deirdre
Sent: (b)(3) CIAAct Tuesday, October 23, 2018 11:15 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: intelligence on Khashoggi

Great, thanks for the flexibility and sorry about the last-minute change. (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 11:09 AM
To: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>; Shesgreen, Deirdre (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: RE: intelligence on Khashoggi (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) Thanks, (b)(6) and Deirdre! Week after next sounds good. Best, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 11:07 AM (b)(3) CIAAct
To: 'Shesgreen, Deirdre' (b)(6); (b)(6)
(b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)@ucia.gov<mailto:(b)(6)@ucia.gov>>
(b)(6) **Subject:** RE: intelligence on Khashoggi (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) (b)(6)

Hey There –

No problem at all. I'm supposed to be out of the office all next week but we could try for the following week?

Works out well actually, that way (b)(6) can come with and you can meet him too!

From: Shesgreen, Deirdre (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 10:24 AM (b)(6)
To: (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)@ucia.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)@ucia.gov>> (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: RE: intelligence on Khashoggi (b)(6)

Pompeo now holding presser at 3:45. I'll have to file a story afterwards, so I'm afraid I won't be able to get to Starbucks by 4:30.

Could we reschedule? I could meet you earlier today or we could try for another day.

(b)(3) CIAAct
From: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>>
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 12:17 PM
To: Shesgreen, Deirdre (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)@ucia.gov>> (b)(6)
Subject: RE: intelligence on Khashoggi (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Yup, that works! Looking forward to catching up.

From: Shesgreen, Deirdre (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 12:15 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)@ucia.gov>>; (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)@ucia.gov>> (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Subject: RE: intelligence on Khashoggi

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

That works. See you there – 1700 Connecticut Ave.

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov>>

Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 12:11 PM

(b)(3) CIAAct Shesgreen, Deirdre <[redacted]> (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) [redacted]@ucia.gov>> (b)(6)

Subject: RE: intelligence on Khashoggi

4:30pm at the Starbucks on Dupont Circle? Where are you at?

Thanks! (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Shesgreen, Deirdre [redacted] (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 11:28 AM (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>>; [redacted]
(b)(6) [redacted]@ucia.gov>>
Subject: RE: intelligence on Khashoggi

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Yes, that would be great. What's a good place to meet?

(b)(3) CIAAct

From: [redacted] (b)(6) [redacted]@ucia.gov>>

Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 9:02 AM

To: Shesgreen, Deirdre [redacted] (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
[redacted]@ucia.gov>> (b)(6)

Subject: RE: intelligence on Khashoggi

(b)(3) CIAAct

Hey Deirdre –

(b)(6)

I'm actually going to be downtown tomorrow afternoon. Want to grab coffee around 4:30?

Thanks!

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Shesgreen, Deirdre [redacted] (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2018 10:53 AM

(b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>>; [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) [redacted] (b)(6)
(b)(6) Cc: [redacted]@ucia.gov>>

Subject: RE: intelligence on Khashoggi (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Okay, thanks all. Nice to e-meet you [redacted]

(b)(3) CIAAct [redacted] if you can grab coffee sometime in the next week or so, please let me know. I'm new to the foreign affairs beat
(b)(6) – after way too many years covering Congress.

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov>>

Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2018 10:36 AM

To: [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>>; Shesgreen, Deirdre
[redacted] (b)(6) (b)(6)

Cc: [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>>

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: intelligence on Khashoggi
(b)(3) CIAAct

Thanks, [redacted] (b)(6) for looping us in. Deirdre, great to meet you here. Like [redacted] said, we're declining comment. Please feel free to reach out to us via [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov> anytime.

Best,

[redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct

[redacted] (b)(6)

Central Intelligence Agency

[redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct

[redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct

[redacted] (b)(6)

From: [redacted]

Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2018 10:30 AM

To: 'Shesgreen, Deirdre' [redacted] (b)(6)

Cc: [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>>

Subject: RE: intelligence on Khashoggi

Hey Deirdre –

Nice to hear from you. Would love to get together soon.

Circling in the media team here as I will be out this weekend so in case anything comes up.

We are declining comment.

Thanks,

[redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct

[redacted] (b)(6)

From: Shesgreen, Deirdre [redacted] (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2018 9:16 AM

To: [redacted]@ucia.gov>>

Subject: intelligence on Khashoggi [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct

[redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct

[redacted] (b)(6)

Hi [redacted] (b)(6)

Hope all is well with you these days! I'm covering the Jamal Khashoggi story. As you know, the Washington Post is reporting that 1) the U.S. intercepted intelligence of the Saudi's discussing a plan to capture Khashoggi and 2) that the crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, ordered the operation to "lure" him back to Saudi Arabia for detention there.

Can you please call me on this? [redacted] (b)(6). Or send me a statement via email?

Thanks,

Deirdre

Deirdre Shesgreen

Foreign Affairs Reporter
USA TODAY

(b)(6)

@dshesgreen

[SA TODAY]

From: Koerber, Ashley (b)(6) on behalf of Koerber, Ashley
Sent: (b)(3) CIAAct Tuesday, October 23, 2018 6:58 PM
To: (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
Cc:
Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Understood. Thank you.

Please let me know if anything changes. (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@ucia.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 6:31 PM
To: Koerber, Ashley (b)(6)
C(b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Hi Ashley,

Thank you for your email and for thinking of CIA. Director Haspel is not available for an interview in the near-term.

Just for future reference, (b)(6) moved to a new position and was replaced by (b)(6) who is included on our group address copied above.

Many thanks again, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Koerber, Ashley (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 4:25 PM
To: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>>
Cc: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>>; (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)@ucia.gov>>
Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Hi (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) (b)(6)

I hope you're doing well.

I wanted to see if Director Haspel would be available for an interview with Bret Baier when she returns back to the U.S. We could discuss the Khashoggi investigation, as well as election security heading into the midterms, among others.

Please let me know if we can further discuss. Thank you for considering!

Best,

Ashley

Ashley Moir (Koerber)

Booking Producer

Special Report w/ Bret Baier

Fox News Channel – DC Bureau

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (cell)

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2018 5:37 PM

To: Koerber, Ashley <[redacted] (b)(6)>

Cc: [redacted]@ucia.gov>; [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>>

Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Hello Ashley, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Director Haspel is not available for an interview with Bret on or near September 11. We appreciate you thinking of CIA, and I've included an interview with Bret on our list of future requests to consider.

Many thanks again, [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: Koerber, Ashley <[redacted] (b)(6)>

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 5:30 PM

To: [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>>

Cc: [redacted] (b)(6) [redacted]@ucia.gov>>

Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Thank you! (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Koerber, Ashley <[redacted] (b)(6)>

Cc: [redacted]@ucia.gov>>

Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Hello Ashley, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Thank you for reaching out. I'm looking into your proposal and will circle back with you soon.

Thanks again, [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: Koerber, Ashley (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 2:51 PM

To: (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov>;

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

(b)(6) @ucia.gov>>

Subject: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Hi (b)(3) CIAAct and (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6) I hope you both are doing well! I wanted to throw out an idea to you...

As you might recall, Bret did an interview with then-Director Pompeo on September 11 of last year. Perhaps we can do something similar again this year, but with Director Haspel. We could go over the terror threat, national security strategy, election hacking concerns, etc. All of this would be very timely for the 9/11 anniversary and the upcoming midterms.

I'm happy to hop on the phone if you would like to further discuss this!

Please get back to me when you can. Thanks for considering!

Best,
Ashley

Ashley Moir (Koerber)
Booking Producer
Special Report w/ Bret Baier
Fox News Channel – DC Bureau

(b)(6) (cell)

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(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2019 12:48 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]
Cc: (b)(6) [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)
Not yet – I'll respond now.

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2019 12:46 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>
Subject: FW: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Did someone respond?

From: Koerber, Ashley [redacted] (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 11:41 AM (b)(3) CIAAct
To: [redacted]@ucia.gov> (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>
Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)
(b)(3) CIAAct
Hi [redacted] (b)(6)

I hope you're doing well. I wanted to see if there were any interview opportunities with Director Haspel in the near future. Bret is still very interested in having her on "Special Report."

Please get back to me at your earliest convenience. Thank you for considering!

Best,
Ashley

Ashley Moir (Koerber)
Booking Producer
Special Report w/ Bret Baier
Fox News Channel – DC Bureau (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) (cell) (b)(6)

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 6:31 PM
To: Koerber, Ashley [redacted] (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Hi Ashley,

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(b)(6) moved to a new position and was replaced by (b)(6) who is included on our group address copied above.

Many thanks again, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Koerber, Ashley (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 4:25 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov>>
Cc: (b)(6) @ucia.gov>>; (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov>>
Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Hi (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

I hope you're doing well.

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Please let me know if we can further discuss. Thank you for considering!

Best,
Ashley

Ashley Moir (Koerber)
Booking Producer
Special Report w/ Bret Baier (b)(3) CIAAct
Fox News Channel – DC Bureau (b)(6)
(b)(6) cell)

From: @ucia.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2018 5:37 PM
To: Koerber, Ashley <(b)(6)>
Cc: @ucia.gov>>; (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov>>
Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

(b)(3) CIAAct
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Many thanks again, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(6)

From: Koerber, Ashley <(b)(6)>

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 5:30 PM

To: (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov>>

Cc: (b)(6) @ucia.gov>>

Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Thank you! (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) @ucia.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Koerber, Ashley <(b)(6)>

Cc: (b)(6) @ucia.gov>>

Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Hello Ashley,

Thank you for reaching out. I'm looking into your proposal and will circle back with you soon.

Thanks again, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: Koerber, Ashley <(b)(6)>

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 2:51 PM

To: (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov>>; (b)(6)

(b)(6) @ucia.gov>>

Subject: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

(b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) CIAAct
Hi (b)(6) and (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

I hope you both are doing well! I wanted to throw out an idea to you...

As you might recall, Bret did an interview with then-Director Pompeo on September 11 of last year. Perhaps we can do something similar again this year, but with Director Haspel. We could go over the terror threat, national security strategy, election hacking concerns, etc. All of this would be very timely for the 9/11 anniversary and the upcoming midterms.

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Ashley

Ashley Moir (Koerber)
Booking Producer
Special Report w/ Bret Baier
Fox News Channel – DC Bureau

(b)(6) (cell)

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From: Koerber, Ashley (b)(6) on behalf of Koerber, Ashley
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2019 12:53 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) CIAAct
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Thank you for getting back to me. Please keep us in consideration.

Best,
Ashley

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)
From: (b)(6)@ucia.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2019 12:52 PM
To: Koerber, Ashley (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(3) CIAAct@ucia.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Hi Ashley,

Thank you for touching base on the possibility of Director Haspel appearing on "Special Report." While she is not available in the near-term, we'll continue to maintain your request on our list of interviews to consider in the future.

Thank you again, and have a great weekend, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Koerber, Ashley (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 11:41 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct@ucia.gov>> (b)(3) CIAAct
Cc: (b)(3) CIAAct@ucia.gov>> (b)(6)
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(b)(3) CIAAct
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Please get back to me at your earliest convenience. Thank you for considering!

Best,
Ashley

Ashley Moir (Koerber)
Booking Producer
Special Report w/ Bret Baier
Fox News Channel – DC Bureau (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) (cell) (b)(6)

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 6:31 PM
To: Koerber, Ashley (b)(6)
Cc: [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

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(b)(3) CIAAct

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Many thanks again, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

[redacted]
CIA Office of Public Affairs (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Koerber, Ashley (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 4:25 PM
To: [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>>
Cc: [redacted] (b)(6) [redacted]@ucia.gov>>; [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>>
Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

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Ashley

Ashley Moir (Koerber)
Booking Producer
Special Report w/ Bret Baier

Fox News Channel – DC Bureau

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (cell)

From: (b)(6)@ucia.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2018 5:37 PM

To: Koerber, Ashley <(b)(6)>

Cc: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>; (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)@ucia.gov>>

Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

(b)(3) CIAAct

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Many thanks again, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: Koerber, Ashley (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 5:30 PM

To: (b)(3) CIAAct@ucia.gov>>

Cc: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>>

Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

Thank you! (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@ucia.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 5:28 PM

To: Koerber, Ashley <(b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)>

Cc: (b)(6)@ucia.gov>>

Subject: RE: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Hello Ashley,

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Thanks again, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: Koerber, Ashley [redacted] (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 2:51 PM

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>> [redacted]

(b)(6)

(b)(6) [redacted]@ucia.gov>>

Subject: Interview Request: Director Haspel with Bret Baier (Fox News)

Hi [redacted] and [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) (b)(6)

I hope you both are doing well! I wanted to throw out an idea to you...

As you might recall, Bret did an interview with then-Director Pompeo on September 11 of last year. Perhaps we can do something similar again this year, but with Director Haspel. We could go over the terror threat, national security strategy, election hacking concerns, etc. All of this would be very timely for the 9/11 anniversary and the upcoming midterms.

I'm happy to hop on the phone if you would like to further discuss this!

Please get back to me when you can. Thanks for considering!

Best,
Ashley

Ashley Moir (Koerber)
Booking Producer
Special Report w/ Bret Baier
Fox News Channel – DC Bureau

[redacted] (b)(6) [redacted] (cell)

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From: Harris, Shane (b)(6) on behalf of Harris, Shane
Sent: Saturday, October 06, 2018 6:12 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Re: Jamal Khashoggi

Ok thanks.

Shane Harris
Staff Writer, The Washington Post
Intelligence and National Security
Mobile/Signal: (b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 6, 2018, at 6:09 PM, (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov> wrote:
(b)(6)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Shane,

Thanks for reaching out. I saw your reporting in last hour but don't have any guidance at this time.

Best,

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Sent from mobile

----- Original Message -----

From: "Harris, Shane" (b)(6)
Date: Sat, Oct 6, 2018, 6:06 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov>
Subject: Jamal Khashoggi

Evening, all. Do you have any guidance on Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi? We are reporting that Turkish authorities believe he was murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

Many thanks.

Shane

Shane Harris
Staff Writer, The Washington Post
Intelligence and National Security
Mobile/Signal: (b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

From: Warren Strobel (b)(6) on behalf of Warren Strobel
Sent: Sunday, October 07, 2018 11:13 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: (b)(6) Re: Jamal Khashoggi

Thanks, man. I knew Jamal quite well. Great guy.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 7, 2018, at 11:12 AM, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6) @ucia.gov wrote:

Hi Warren,

Sorry don't have anything to offer at this time.

Best,

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Sent from mobile

----- Original Message -----

From: Warren Strobel (b)(6)
Date: Sun, Oct 7, 2018, 11:06 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct @ucia.gov
Subject: Jamal Khashoggi

Good morning. On background, do you have any information to corroborate accounts that Saudi journalist and dissident Jamal Khashoggi was killed by officials of the Saudi government?

Many thanks
Warren

Sent from my iPhone

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2018 10:18 PM
To: Hosenball, Mark J. (Reuters); [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Re: Kashoggi

Sorry Mark, but we don't have any guidance on this.

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: "Hosenball, Mark J. (Reuters)" [redacted] (b)(6)
Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 9:50:40 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>, (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>
Subject: Kashoggi (b)(6)

Is this Post reporting accurate ? Guidance welcome. Tks mh

//Before Khashoggi's disappearance, U.S. intelligence intercepted communications of Saudi officials discussing a plan to capture him, according to a person familiar with the information. The Saudis wanted to lure Khashoggi back to Saudi Arabia and lay hands on him there, this person said. It was not clear whether the Saudis intended to arrest and interrogate Khashoggi or to kill him, or if the U.S. warned Khashoggi that he was a target, this person said.//

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Riechmann, Deb (b)(6) on behalf of Riechmann, Deb
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2018 7:34 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Khashoggi (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)

Ok. Let me know.

Sent from my iPhone

(b)(3) CIAAct

On Oct 8, 2018, at 6:06 PM, (b)(6) <(b)(6)@ucia.gov> wrote:

Sorry I haven't seen anything but hope to learn more tomorrow

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Sent from mobile

----- Original Message -----

From: "Riechmann, Deb" (b)(6)
Date: Mon, Oct 8, 2018, 4:31 PM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@ucia.gov> (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Khashoggi (b)(6)

Does the US know yet what may or may not have happened to the Saudi writer/dissident?

Sent from my iPhone

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

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(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)
From:
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 2:52 PM
To: 'Riechmann, Deb'
Subject: RE: Khashoggi

Hi Deb,

I just tried your cell, but I missed you. Please feel free to give me a call at (b)(3) CIAAct

Thanks, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Riechmann, Deb
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 1:59 PM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Khashoggi (b)(6)

It's appearing more and more as if there is a report on Khashoggi that Trump is expecting to "get," not "issue."

Perhaps this "report" is just a more formal account of what intel has already shared with him?

Is the "report" coming from intel or just from his in-house advisers?

Deb Riechmann
National security/foreign affairs
Associated Press
(b)(6) (desk)
(b)(6) (cell-signal enabled)

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(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:00 PM
To: Riechmann, Deb
Subject: RE: Khashoggi

Sorry about pressure; will reach out if I get any guidance

From: Riechmann, Deb
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 11:15 AM (b)(3) CIAAct
To: [redacted] (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Khashoggi

I'm getting pressed hard to find out if Haspel is telling him about any audio she might have heard.
So anything you can say what Haspel's briefing would be helpful, even if it's generic.

(b)(3) CIAAct

(b)(6)

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@ucia.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 11:10 AM
To: Riechmann, Deb [redacted] (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Khashoggi

Interesting. We don't have any guidance (at least not yet).

From: Riechmann, Deb [redacted] (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 9:45 AM
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@ucia.gov> (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Khashoggi (b)(6)

We are hearing that the story about the Saudi prosecutor might be inaccurate.

People are saying the Saudi statement merely says the Turks told the Saudis that Khashoggi's murder was premeditated
_ not that the Saudi prosecutor says it was premeditated.

Let me know if you all have any information that would help clarify?

Deb Riechmann
National security/foreign affairs
Associated Press

(b)(6) (desk)
(b)(6) (cell-signal enabled)

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(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2018 10:44 AM
To: Riechmann, Deb
Cc: (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: RE: Khashoggi

Hi Deb,

These are all good questions, but I'm sorry we don't have any guidance.

Best,
(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Central Intelligence Agency

(b)(3) CIAAct

From: Riechmann, Deb
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2018 9:36 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Khashoggi (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

More questions about Khashoggi:

Has Turkey shared the audio tapes with US IC?

Has anyone in the IC listened to the audio that Turkish officials say indicates that Khashoggi was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul?

Has Turkey only shared transcripts of the audio?

Deb Riechmann
National security/foreign affairs
Associated Press
(b)(6) (desk)
(b)(6) (cell-signal enabled)
(b)(6)

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From: Riechmann, Deb (b)(6) on behalf of Riechmann, Deb
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2018 12:48 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Khashoggi (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2018 12:47 PM
To: Riechmann, Deb (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: RE: Khashoggi (b)(6)

Hey Deb, I just tried giving you a quick call. Best, (b)(6)

From: Riechmann, Deb (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2018 12:19 PM (b)(3) CIAAct
To: (b)(6)@ucia.gov> (b)(6)
Subject: Khashoggi

Could it be that the "intelligence" cited by the Post and others was actually unclassified open source information (like threatening tweets and critical articles in the Saudi press) that was included in classified CIA briefing papers. In other words, could it be that the information itself was not classified, but the actual document was?

Also, Turkey is denying Trump's claims of U.S. investigators in Turkey. We still don't know who these investigators might be working for? FBI says it's not them.

Deb Riechmann
National security/foreign affairs
Associated Press

(b)(6) (desk)
(b)(6) (cell-signal enabled)

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From: Schmitt, Eric (b)(6) on behalf of Schmitt, Eric
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 7:03 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Cc: (b)(6))(3) CIAAct
Subject: Re: Khashoggi

Thx

Eric Schmitt
New York Times
1627 I St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

(b)(6)
www.counterstrikethebook.com

For WhatsApp and Signal, use cell number.

Desk: (b)(6)

Cell: +

On Wed, Oct 10, 2018 at 7:02 AM (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)@ucia.gov> wrote:
Hi Eric,

CIA does not have a comment on this.

Best,
(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: "Schmitt, Eric" (b)(6)
Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 6:27:32 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)@ucia.gov>
Cc: (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)@ucia.gov>
Subject: Khashoggi

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Pls give me a call (b)(6) about this line in the WaPo story this morning:

Before Khashoggi's disappearance, U.S. intelligence intercepted communications of Saudi officials discussing a plan to capture him, according to a person familiar with the information. The Saudis wanted to lure Khashoggi back to Saudi Arabia and lay hands on him there, this person said.

Thanks,

Eric

Eric Schmitt
New York Times
1627 I St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

(b)(6)

www.counterstrikethebook.com

For WhatsApp and Signal, use cell number.

Desk: (b)(6)

Cell: -

From: Marquardt, Alex (b)(6) on behalf of Marquardt, Alex
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 9:18 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: (b)(6) Re: Khashoggi

And could you clarify whether this report is just CIA or IC overall?
Thanks

Alexander Marquardt
CNN Senior National Correspondent
(b)(6) | @MarquardtA

On Nov 20, 2018, at 07:01, Marquardt, Alex (b)(6) wrote:

Hey man, I did speak with (b)(6) he was helpful. (b)(3) CIAAct
How do you know (b)(6)? Thanks for reminder, need to re-connect with her. (b)(6)
Anything you can tell me about today's WH briefing on Khashoggi?

From: (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) <(b)(6)@ucia.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 5:03 PM
To: Marquardt, Alex
Subject: RE: Khashoggi

Hi Alex, (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Sorry for delay. Just saw your package and understand you spoke with (b)(6) from our team. I was on leave and am back. Turns out, we have a mutual friend (b)(6). Talk with you soon. Best, (b)(6)

From: Marquardt, Alex (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 1:33 PM (b)(6)
To: (b)(6)@ucia.gov (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Khashoggi (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
Hey (b)(6)

Wondering if you have anything more to add on Khashoggi today. CIA's level of certainty on MBS's culpability? And what the conclusions of tomorrow's report will be?

Thanks

Alexander Marquardt | CNN Senior National Correspondent | M: (b)(6) | O: (b)(6)
@MarquardtA

From: Alexey Bogdanovsky (b)(6) on behalf of Alexey Bogdanovsky
Sent: Thursday, November 22, 2018 10:19 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - RIA Novosti (Khashoggi)

Thank you very much and happy Thanksgiving!

On Thu, Nov 22, 2018 at 10:18 AM (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6) <(b)(6)@ucia.gov> wrote:
Hello Alexey,

Thank you for your inquiry. You may note CIA declined to comment.

Best,

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: "Alexey Bogdanovsky" <(b)(6)>
Date: Thursday, November 22, 2018 at 10:11:24 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6) <(b)(6)@ucia.gov>, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6) <(b)(6)@ucia.gov>, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(6) <(b)(6)@ucia.gov>
Subject: Media Inquiry - RIA Novosti (Khashoggi)

Dear Sir/Madam -

RIA Novosti news agency would like to ask the CIA to comment on a Turkish newspaper's report on Thursday that the CIA director Gina Haspel signalled to Turkish officials last month that the agency had a recording of a call in which Saudi Arabia's crown prince gave instructions to "silence" Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Thank you in advance.

Best regards,

Alexey Bogdanovsky

RIA Novosti

Washington, D.C.

From: Simon Hooper <[redacted] (b)(6) [redacted]> on behalf of Simon Hooper
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 5:55 AM
To: (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]
Subject: (b)(6) Re: Middle East Eye seeking comment

Thank you for your response [redacted] I added a declined to comment line.

Best regards, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) (b)(6)

Simon

On Tue, Jan 8, 2019 at 10:00 PM [redacted]@ucia.gov>> wrote:
Hi Simon, I apologize for the late response well past your deadline. We have no guidance on the record on the questions you pose. If you have not yet published or will update the story, you can note that CIA declined to comment.

From: Simon Hooper [redacted] (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 4:33 AM
To: [redacted]@ucia.gov>> (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: Re: Middle East Eye seeking comment (b)(6)

Thank you [redacted] Looking forward to hearing from you further.

Best regards, (b)(3) CIAAct (b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6) (b)(6)

Simon

On Mon, Jan 7, 2019 at 7:51 PM [redacted]@ucia.gov>> wrote:
Hi Simon, thank you for reaching out. We will look into your query and get back to you before your deadline. Thanks.

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

CIA Office of Public Affairs

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: Simon Hooper [redacted] (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 11:28 AM
To: [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]@ucia.gov>>
Subject: Middle East Eye seeking comment

Hi there,

It's Simon Hooper here at the Middle East Eye website in London.

We are working on a story about contacts between Mohammed bin Zayed, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, and the CIA after Gina Haspel's briefing to members of Congress last month about the killing of Jamal Khashoggi.

Our sources tell us that Mohammed bin Zayed sent both his brother and his son to seek meetings with Ms. Haspel and has been attempting to mediate between Riyadh and Washington to limit the damage done to the country's relationship by the killing.

Our sources tell us that shortly after that briefing bin Zayed sent his brother and national security adviser, Tahnoun bin Zayed, to Washington to ask for a meeting with Ms. Haspel, but the request was refused.

Bin Zayed then sent his son, Khaled, to Washington to request to meet Ms. Haspel. Our sources tell us that while a date was agreed this meeting also did not take place.

Can the CIA confirm that Tahnoun bin Zayed's request to meet with Ms. Haspel was refused?
And can it confirm that a meeting with Khaled bin Zayed was scheduled but did not take place?

Can the CIA also offer any comment or background on contacts it has had with Emirati officials in relation to these matters?

Many thanks for your help with this. Our deadline is 10am GMT on Tuesday (5am ET).

Best regards,

Simon Hooper

--

Simon Hooper Head of News, Middle East Eye

DL: (b)(6) | E: (b)(6) | W:
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Simon Hooper Head of News, Middle East Eye

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Simon Hooper Head of News, Middle East Eye

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From: Nick Wadhams (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) [redacted] (b)(6) on behalf
of Nick Wadhams (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 2:29 PM
To: [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct
Subject: RE: Wall Street Journal (b)(6)

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Hi [redacted] - I hope all is well. Would you have time at some point soon to meet for coffee? Maybe later next week? Thanks, Nick

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov At: 12/01/18 10:07:20
To: Nick Wadhams (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: RE: Wall Street Journal

Thanks Nick

You're welcome to call [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct

We don't have any guidance, but I'm happy to take your call

From: Nick Wadhams (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) (b)(3) CIAAct
Sent: Saturday, December 01, 2018 9:48 AM (b)(6)
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Wall Street Journal

(b)(3) CIAAct [redacted] thanks for this, and nice to e-meet you. I'm our State Dept/foreign policy reporter,
(b)(6) occasionally dipping into intel as much as that's possible.

One other question -- I was told that you guys have lines and/or are briefing reporters more broadly on the intel assessment about the likelihood that MBS knew about or was involved in Khashoggi's death. Is that the case?

Would love to speak with someone if at all possible. Thanks, Nick

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

From: [redacted]@ucia.gov At: 12/01/18 09:39:40 (b)(3) CIAAct

To: Nick Wadhams (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:), [redacted]@ucia.gov, [redacted]@ucia.gov
Subject: RE: Wall Street Journal

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

Hi Nick,

Thank you for reaching out. I'm sorry, but we do not have anything to add. You may note we declined comment.

Best,

(b)(3) CIAAct [redacted]
(b)(6)

Central Intelligence Agency

(b)(3) CIAAct

From: Nick Wadhams (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)

Sent: Saturday, December 01, 2018 7:47 AM

To: [redacted]; [redacted] (b)(3) CIAAct

Subject: Wall Street Journal

Hi everyone - this is Nick Wadhams at Bloomberg. Would someone be able to walk me through the conclusions and assessment on Jamal Khashoggi as spelled out in the Wall Street Journal today - that the assessment is based on intercepts involving MBS?

Thank you, Nick